

THE  
I L I A D  
OF  
H O M E R.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GREEK

B Y

ALEXANDER POPE, E.S.Q.

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VOLUME THE SECOND.

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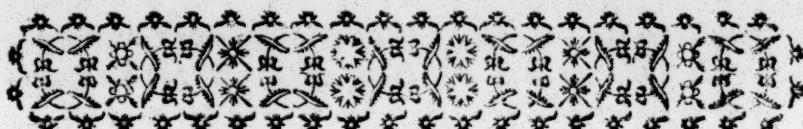
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M DCC LXVI.





T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K XIII.

T H E A R G U M E N T.

The fourth battle continued, in which Neptune assails the Greeks : the acts of Idomeneus.

*Neptune, concerned for the loss of the Grecians, upon seeing the fortification forced by Hector, who had entered the gate near the station of the Ajaxes, assumes the shape of Calchas, and inspires those heroes to oppose him : then in the form of one of the generals, encourages the other Greeks who had retired to their vessels. The Ajaxes form their troops in a close phalanx, and put a stop to Hector and the Trojans. Several deeds of valour are performed : Meriones losing his spear in the encounter, repairs to seek another at the tent of Idomeneus : this occasions a conversation between those two warriors, who return together to the battle. Idomeneus signalizes his courage above the rest ; he kills Othryoneus, Asius, and Alcathous : Deiphobus and Æneas march against him, and at length Idomeneus retires. Menelaus wounds*

VOL. II.

A

*Helenus, and kills Pisander. The Trojans are repulsed in the left wing ; Hector still keeps his ground against the Ajaxes; till being galled by the Locrian slingers and archers, Polydamas advises to call a council of war : Hector approves his advice, but goes first to rally the Trojans ; upbraids Paris, rejoins Polydamas, meets Ajax again, and renewes the attack.*

The eight and twentieth day still continues. The scene is between the Grecian wall and the sea-shore.

When now the Thund'rer on the sea-beat coast  
Had fix'd great Hector and his conqu'ring host ;  
He left them to the fates, in bloody fray  
To toil and struggle thro' the well-fought day.  
Then turn'd to Thracia from the field of fight      5  
Those eyes that shed insufferable light,  
To where the Mysians prove their martial force,  
And hardy Thracians tame the savage horse ;  
And where the far-fam'd Hippemolgian strays,  
Renown'd for justice and for length of days ;      10  
Thrice happy race ! that, innocent of blood,  
From milk, innoxious, seek their simple food :  
Jove sees delighted ; and avoids the scene  
Of guilty Troy, of arms, and dying men :  
No aid, he deems, to either host is giv'n,      15  
While his high law suspends the pow'r's of heav'n.

Meantime the monarch of the wat'ry main  
Observ'd the Thund'rer, nor observ'd in vain,  
In Samothracia, on a mountain's brow,  
Whose waving woods o'erhung the deeps below,      20  
He sat ; and round him cast his azure eyes,  
Where Ida's misty tops confus'dly rise ;  
Below, fair Ilion's glitt'ring spires were seen ;  
The crowded ships, and sable seas between.

Book XIII. HOMER's ILIAD. 3

There, from the crystal chambers of the main, 25  
Emerg'd, he sat, and mourn'd his Argives slain.

At Jove incens'd, with grief and fury stung,  
Prone down the rocky steep he rush'd along ;  
Fierce as he pass'd, the lofty mountains nod,  
The forests shake ! earth trembled as he trod, 30 }  
And felt the footsteps of th' immortal God.

From realm to realm three ample strides he took,  
And, at the fourth, the distant Ægæ shook.

Far in the bay his shining palace stands,  
Eternal frame ! not rais'd by mortal hands : 35  
This having reach'd, his brass-hoof'd steeds he reins,  
Fleet as the winds, and deck'd with golden manes.  
Refulgent arms his mighty limbs infold,  
Immortal arms, of adamant and gold.

He mounts the car, the golden scourge applies, 40  
He sits superior, and the chariot flies :  
His whirling wheels the glassy surface sweep ;  
Th' enormous monsters rolling o'er the deep,  
Gambol around him on the wat'ry way ;  
And heavy whales in awkward measures play : 45  
The sea subsiding spreads a level plain,  
Exults, and owns the monarch of the main ;  
The parting waves before his coursers fly :  
The wond'ring waters leave his axle dry.

Deep in the liquid regions lies a cave ; 50 }  
Between where Tenedos the surges lave,  
And rocky Imbrus breaks the rolling wave :  
There the great ruler of the azure round  
Stopt his swift chariot, and his steeds unbound,  
Fed with ambrosial herbage from his hand, 55  
And link'd their fetlocks with a golden band,  
Infrangible, immortal : there they stay.  
The father of the floods pursues his way ;  
Where, like a tempest dark'ning heav'n around,  
Or fiery deluge that devours the ground, 60

## 4 HOMER's ILIAD. Book XIII.

Th' impatient Trojans, in a gloomy throng,  
Embattled roll'd, as Hector rush'd along.

To the loud tumult and the barb'rous cry,  
The heav'n's re-echo, and the shores reply :  
They vow destruction to the Grecian name,      65  
And in their hopes the fleets already flame.

But Neptune, rising from the seas profound,  
The God whose earthquakes rock the solid ground,  
Now wears a mortal form ; like Calchas seen,  
Such his loud voice, and such his manly mien ;      70  
His shouts incessant ev'ry Greek inspire,  
But most th' Ajaces, adding fire to fire.

'Tis yours, O warriors, all our hopes to raise ;  
Oh recollect your ancient worth and praise !  
'Tis yours to save us, if you cease to fear ;      75  
Flight, more than shameful, is destructive here.  
On other works tho' Troy with fury fall,  
And pour her armies o'er our batter'd wall ; [thrown,  
There, Greece has strength : but this, this part o'er-  
Her strength were vain ; I dread for you alone.      80  
Here Hector rages like the force of fire,  
Vaunts of his Gods, and calls high Jove his fire.  
If yet some heav'nly pow'r your breast excite,  
Breathe in your hearts, and string your arms to fight,  
Greece yet may live, her threaten'd fleet maintain ;      85  
And Hector's force, and Jove's own aid, be vain.

Then with his sceptre that the deep controuls,  
He touch'd the chiefs, and steel'd their manly souls :  
Strength, not their own, the touch divine imparts,  
Prompts their light limbs, and swells their daring hearts.  
Then as a falcon from the rocky height,      91  
Her quarry seen, impetuous at the sight  
Forth springing instant, darts herself from high,  
Shoots on the wing, and skims along the sky :  
Such, and so swift, the pow'r of Ocean flew ;      95  
The wide horizon shut him from their view.

Book XIII. H O M E R's I L I A D. 5

Th' inspiring God, Oileus' active son  
Perceiv'd the first, and thus to Telamon.  
Some God, my friend, some God in human form,  
Fav'ring descends, and wills to stand the storm. 100  
Not Calchas this, the venerable seer ;  
Short as he turn'd, I saw the pow'r appear :  
I mark'd his parting, and the steps he trod ;  
His own bright evidence reveals a God.  
Ev'n now some energy divine I share, 105  
And seem to walk on wings, and tread in air !

With equal ardour (Telamon returns)  
My soul is kindled, and my bosom burns ;  
New rising spirits all my force alarm,  
Lift each impatient limb, and brace my arm. 110  
This ready arm, unthinking, shakes the dart ;  
The blood pours back, and fortifies my heart ;  
Singly, methinks, yon tow'ring chief I meet ;  
And stretch the dreadful Hector at my feet.

Full of the God that urg'd their burning breast, 115  
The heroes thus their mutual warmth exprest.  
Neptune meanwhile the routed Greeks inspir'd ;  
Who breathles, pale, with length of labours tir'd,  
Pant in the ships ; while Troy to conquest calls,  
And swarms victorious o'er their yielding walls : 120  
Trembling before th' impending storm they lie,  
While tears of rage stand burning in their eye.  
Greece sunk they thought, and this their fatal hour ;  
But breathe new courage as they feel the pow'r.  
Teucer and Leitus first his words excite ; 125  
Then stern Peneleus rises to the fight ;  
Thoas, Deipyrus, in arms renown'd,  
And Merion next, th' impulsive fury found ;  
Last Nestor's son the same bold ardour takes,  
While thus the God the martial fire awakes. 130

Oh lasting infamy ! oh dire disgrace  
To chiefs of vig'rous youth, and manly race !

## 6 HOMER's ILIAD. Book XIII.

I trusted in the Gods, and you, to see  
Brave Greece victorious, and her navy free :  
Ah no——the glorious combat you disclaim,      135  
And one black day clouds all her former fame.  
Heav'ns ! what a prodigy these eyes survey,  
Unseen, unthought, till this amazing day !  
Fly we at length from Troy's oft-conquer'd bands ?  
And falls our fleet by such inglorious hands ?      140  
A rout undisciplin'd, a straggling train,  
Not born to glories of the dusty plain ;  
Like frightened fawns from hill to hill pursu'd,  
A prey to ev'ry savage of the wood :  
Shall these, so late who trembled at your name,      145  
Invade your camps, involve your ships in flame ?  
A change so shameful, say, what cause has wrought ?  
The soldier's baseness, or the general's fault ?  
Fools ! will ye perish for your leader's vice ;  
The purchase infamy, and life the price ?      150  
'T is not your cause, Achilles' injur'd fame :  
Another's is the crime, but yours the shame.  
Grant that our chief offend through rage or lust,  
Must you be cowards, if your king's unjust ?  
Prevent this evil, and your country save :      155  
Small thought retrieves the spirits of the brave.  
'Think, and subdue ! on dastards dead to fame  
I waste no anger, for they feel no shame :  
But you, the pride, the flow'r of all our host.  
My heart weeps blood to see your glory lost !      160  
Nor deem this day, this battle, all you lose ;  
A day more black, a fate more vile, ensues.  
Let each reflect, who prizes fame or breath,  
On endless infamy, on instant death.  
For lo ! the fated time, th' appointed shore ;      165  
Hark ! the gates burst, the brazen barriers roar !  
Impetuous Hector thunders at the wall ;  
'T he hour, the spot, to conquer, or to fall.

Book XIII. HOMER's ILIAD. 7

These words the Grecians fainting hearts inspire,  
And list'ning armies catch the godlike si e. 170  
Fix'd at his post was each bold Ajax found,  
With well-rang'd squadrons strongly circled round:  
So close their order, so dispos'd their fight,  
As Pallas' self might view with fix'd delight ;  
Or had the God of war inclin'd his eyes, 175  
The God of war had own'd a just surprise.  
A chosen phalanx, firm, resolv'd as fate,  
Descending Hector and his battle wait.  
An iron scene gleams dreadful o'er the fields,  
Armour in armour lock'd, and shields in shields, 180  
Spears lean on spears, on targets targets throng,  
Helms stuck to helms, and man drove man along.  
The floating plumes unnumber'd wave above,  
As when an earthquake stirs the nodding grove;  
And levell'd at the skies with pointing rays, 185  
Their brandish'd lances at each motion blaze.

Thus breathing death, in terrible array,  
The close compacted legions urg'd their way :  
Fierce they drove on, impatient to destroy ;  
Troy charg'd the first, and Hector first of Troy. 190  
As from some mountain's craggy forehead torn,  
A rock's round fragment flies, with fury born,  
(Which from the stubborn stone a torrent rends),  
Precipitate the pond'rous mass descends :  
From steep to steep the rolling ruin bounds ; 195  
At ev'ry shock the crackling wood resounds ;  
Still gath'ring force, it smokes ; and, urg'd amain,  
Whirls, leaps, and thunders down, impetuous to the  
plain :

There stops—So Hector. Their whole force he prov'd,  
Resistless when he rag'd, and when he stopt, unmov'd.  
On him the war is bent, the darts are shed, 201  
And all their faulchions wave around his head :

## 8 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XIII.

Repuls'd he stands, nor from his stand retires;  
 But with repeated shouts his army fires.  
 Trojins! be firm : this arm shall make your way 205  
 Through yon square body, and that black array :  
 Stand, and my spear shall rout their scatt'ring pow'r,  
 Strong as they seem, embattled like a tow'r.  
 For he that Juno's heav'nly bosom warms,  
 The first of Gods, this day inspires our arms. 210

He said, and rous'd the soul in ev'ry breast ;  
 Urg'd with desire of fame, beyond the rest,  
 Forth march'd Deiphobus ; but marching, held  
 Before his wary steps, his ample shield.  
 Bold Merion aim'd a stroke, (nor aim'd it wide); 215  
 The glitt'ring jav'lin pierc'd the tough bull-hide ;  
 But pierc'd not through : unfaithful to his hand,  
 The point broke short, and sparkled in the sand.  
 The Trojan warrior, touch'd with timely fear,  
 On the rais'd orb to distance bore the spear : 220  
 The Greek retreating, mourn'd his frustrate blow,  
 And cuss'd the treach'rous lance that spar'd a foe ;  
 Then to the ships with surly speed he went,  
 To seek a surer jav'lin in his tent.

Meanwhile with rising rage the battle glows, 225  
 The tumult thickens, and the clamour grows.  
 By Teucer's arm the warlike Imbrius bleeds,  
 The son of Mentor, rich in gen'rous steeds.  
 Ere yet to Troy the sons of Greece were led,  
 In fair Pedæus' verdant pastures bred, 230  
 The youth had dwelt ; remote from war's alarms,  
 And bless'd in bright Medesicaste's arms :  
 (This nymph, the fruit of Priam's ravish'd joy,  
 Ally'd the warrior to the house of Troy).  
 To Troy, when glory call'd his arms, he came, 235  
 And match'd the bravest of her chiefs in fame :  
 With Priam's sons, a guardian of the throne,  
 He liv'd, belov'd and honour'd as his own.

Book XIII: H O M E R's I L I A D. 9

Him Teucer pierc'd between the throat and ear :  
He groans beneath the Telamonian spear. 240

As from some far-seen mountain's airy crown,  
Subdu'd by steel, a tall ash tumbles down,  
And soils its verdant tresses on the ground :  
So falls the youth ; his arms the fall resound.

Then Teucer rushing to despoil the dead, 245  
From Hector's hand a shining jav'lin fled :

He saw, and shunn'd the death ; the forceful dart  
Sung on, and pierc'd Amphimacus' heart,  
Creatus' son, of Neptune's forceful line ;

Vain was his courage, and his race divine ! 250

Prostrate he falls ; his clang ing arms resound,  
And his broad buckler thunders on the ground.

To seize his beamy helm the victor flies,  
And just had fasten'd on the dazzling prize,  
When Ajax' manly arm a jav'lin flung ; 255

Full on the shield's round boss the weapon rung ;  
He felt the shock, nor more was doom'd to feel,  
Secure in mail, and sheath'd in shining steel.

Repuls'd he yields ; the victor Greeks obtain  
The spoils contested, and bear off the slain. 260

Between the leaders of th' Athenian line,  
(Stichius the brave, Menestheus the divine),  
Deplor'd Amphimacus, sad object ! lies ;  
Imbrius remains the fierce Ajaces' prize.

As two grim lions bear across the lawn, 265  
Snatch'd from devouring hounds, a slaughter'd fawn,  
In their fell jaws high-lifting through the wood,  
And sprinkling all the shrubs with drops of blood ;  
So these the chief : great Ajax from the dead  
Strips his bright arms, Oileus lops his head : 270  
Toss'd like a ball, and whirl'd in air away,  
At Hector's feet the gory visage lay.

The God of ocean fir'd with stern disdain,  
And pierc'd with sorrow for his grandson slain,

## 10 HOMER's ILLIAD. Book XIII.

Inspires the Grecian hearts, confirms their hands, 275  
 And breathes destruction on the Trojan bands.  
 Swift as a whirlwind rushing to the fleet,  
 He finds the lance-fam'd Idomen of Crete ;  
 His pensive brow the gen'rous care exprest  
 With which a wounded soldier touch'd his breast, 280  
 Whom in the chance of war a jav'lin tore,  
 And his sad comrades from the battle bore ;  
 Him to the surgeons of the camp he sent ;  
 That office paid, he issu'd from his tent,  
 Fierce for the fight : to whom the God begun, 285  
 In Thoas' voice, Andræmon's valiant son,  
 Who rul'd where Calydon's white rocks arise,  
 And Pleuron's chalky cliffs emblaze the skies.

Where's now th' imperious vaunt, the daring boast  
 Of Greecee victorious, and proud Ilion lost ? 290

To whom the king. On Greece no blame be thrown,  
 Arms are her trade, and war is all her own.  
 Her hardy heroes from the well fought plains  
 Nor fear with-holds, nor shameful sloth detains.  
 'Tis heav'n, alas ! and Jove's all pow'rful doom, 295  
 That far, far distant from our native home  
 Wills us to fall, inglorious ! Oh my friend !  
 Once foremost in the fight, still prone to lend  
 Or arms, or counsels ; now perform thy best,  
 And what thou canst not singly, urge the rest. 300

Thus he ; and thus the God, whose force can make  
 The solid globe's eternal basis shake :  
 Ah ! never may he see his native land,  
 But feed the vultures on this hateful strand,  
 Who seeks ignobly in his ships to stay, 305  
 Nor dares to combat on this signal day !  
 For this, behold ! in horrid arms I shine,  
 And urge thy soul to rival acts with mine ;  
 Together let us battle on the plain ;  
 Two, not the worst ; nor ev'n this succour vain ; 310

Book XIII. HOMER's ILIAD. 11.

Not vain the weakest, if their force unite ;  
But ours, the bravest have confess'd in fight.

This said, he rushes where the combat burns :  
Swift to his tent the Cretan king returns.  
From thence, two jav'lins glitt'ring in his hand, 315  
And clad in arms that lighten'd all the strand,  
Fierce on the foe th' impetuous hero drove ;  
Like lightning bursting from the arm of Jove,  
Which to pale man the wrath of heav'n declares,  
Or terrifies th' offending world with wars ; 320  
In streamy sparkles, kindling all the skies,  
From pole to pole the trail of glory flies.  
Thus his bright armour o'er the dazzled throng  
Gleam'd dreadful, as the monarch flush'd along.

Him, near his tent, Meriones attends ; 325  
Whom thus he questions : ever best of friends !  
O say, in ev'ry art of battle skill'd,  
What holds thy courage from so brave a field ?  
On some important message art thou bound,  
Or bleeds my friend by so ne unhappy wound ? 330  
Inglorious here, my soul abhors to stay,  
And glows with prospects of th' approaching day.

O prince ! (Meriones replies), whose care  
Leads forth th' embattled sons of Crete to war ;  
This speaks my grief ; this headless lance I wield ;  
The rest lies rooted in a Trojan shield. 336

To whom the Cretan : Enter, and receive  
The wanted weapons ; those my tent can give ;  
Spears I have store, (and Trojan lances all),  
That shed a lustre round th' illumin'd wall. 340  
Though I, disdainful of the distant war,  
Nor trust the dart, or aim th' uncertain spear,  
Yet hand to hand I fight, and spoil the slain ;  
And thence these trophies and these arms I gain.  
Enter, and see on heaps the helmets roll'd, 345  
And high-hung pears, and shields that flame with gold.

Nor vain (said Merion) are our martial toils ;  
 We too can boast of no ignoble spoils.  
 But those my ship contains; whence distant far,  
 I fight conspicuous in the van of war. 350  
 What need I more ? If any Greek there be  
 Who knows not Merion, I appeal to thee.

To this Idomeneus : The fields of fight  
 Have prov'd thy valour, and unconquer'd might ;  
 And were some ambush for the foes design'd, 355  
 Ev'n there thy courage would not lag behind.  
 In that sharp service, singled from the rest,  
 The fear of each, or valour, stands confest.  
 No force, no firmness, the pale coward shows ;  
 He shifts his place ; his colour comes and goes ; 360  
 A dropping sweat creeps cold on ev'ry part ;  
 Against his bosom beats his quiv'ring heart ;  
 Terror and death in his wild eye balls stare ;  
 With chatt'ring teeth he stands, and stiff'ning hair, }  
 And looks a bloodless image of despair ! 365 }  
 Not so the brave——still dauntless, still the same,  
 Unchang'd his colour, and unmov'd his frame ;  
 Compos'd his thought, determin'd is his eye,  
 And fix'd his soul, to conquer or to die :  
 If aught disturb the tenor of his breast, 370  
 'Tis but the wish to strike before the rest.

In such essays thy blameless worth is known,  
 And ev'ry art of dang'rous war thy own.  
 By chance of fight whatever wounds you bore,  
 Those wounds were glorious all, and all before ; 375  
 Such as may teach, 'twas still thy brave delight  
 T'oppose thy bosom where the foremost fight.  
 But why, like infants, cold to honour's charms,  
 Stand we to talk, when glory calls to arms ?  
 Go—from my conquer'd spears the choicest take, 380  
 And to their owners send them nobly back.

Swift as the word bold Merion snatch'd a spear,  
 And breathing slaughter follow'd to the war.  
 So Mars armipotent invades the plain,  
 (The wide destroyer of the race of man), 385  
 Terror, his best lov'd son, attends his course,  
 Arm'd with stern boldness, and enormous force ;  
 The pride of haughty warriors to confound,  
 And lay the strength of tyrants on the ground :  
 From Thrace they fly, call'd to the dire alarms 390  
 Of warring Phlegyans, and Ephyrian arms ;  
 Invok'd by both, relentless they dispose  
 To these glad conquest, murd'rous rout to those.  
 So march'd the leaders of the Cretan train,  
 And their bright arms shot horror o'er the plain. 395

Then first spake Merion : Shall we join the right,  
 Or combat in the centre of the fight ?  
 Or to the left our wanted succour lend ?  
 Hazard and fame all parts alike attend.  
 Not in the centre, (Idomen reply'd), 400  
 Our ablest chieftains the main battle guide ;  
 Each godlike Ajax makes that post his care,  
 And gallant Teucer deals destruction there :  
 Skill'd, or with shafts to gall the distant field,  
 Or bear close battle on the sounding shield. 405  
 These can the rage of haughty Hector tame ;  
 Safe in their arms, the navy fears no flame ;  
 Till Jove himself descends, his bolts to shed,  
 And hurl the brazen ruin at our head.  
 Great must he be, of more than human birth, 410  
 Nor feed like mortals on the fruits of earth,  
 Him neither rocks can crush, nor steel can wound,  
 Whom Ajax fells not on th'ensanguin'd ground.  
 In standing fight he mates Achilles' force,  
 Excell'd alone in swiftness in the course. 415  
 Then to the left our ready arms apply,  
 And live with glory, or with glory die.

He said; and Merion to th' appointed place,  
 Fierce as the God of battles, urg'd his pace.  
 Soon as the foe the shining chiefs beheld      420  
 Rush like a fiery torrent o'er the field,  
 Their force embody'd in a tide they pour ;  
 The rising combat sounds along the shore.  
 As warring winds, in Sirius' sultry reign,  
 From diff'rent quarters sweep the sandy plain ;      425  
 On ev'ry side the dusty whirlwinds rise,  
 And the dry fields are lifted to the skies :  
 Thus by despair, hope, rage, together driv'n,  
 Met the black hosts, and meeting, darken'd heav'n.  
 All dreadful glar'd the iron face of war,      430  
 Bristled with upright spears, that flash'd afar ;  
 Dire was the gleam, of breast-plates, helms, and shields.  
 And polish'd arms emblaz'd the flaming fields :  
 Tremendous scene ! that gen'ral horror gave,  
 But touch'd with joy the bosoms of the brave.      435

Saturn's great sons in fierce contention vy'd,  
 And crouds of heroes in their anger dy'd.  
 The fire of earth and heav'n, by Thetis won  
 To crown with glory Peleus' godlike son,  
 Will'd not destruction to the Grecian pow'rs,      440  
 But spar'd a while the destin'd Trojan tow'r's :  
 While Neptune rising from his azu'e main,  
 Warr'd on the king of heav'n with stern disdain,      }  
 And breath'd revenge, and fir'd the Grecian train.  
 Gods of one source, of one ethereal race,      445  
 Alike divine, and heav'n their native place ;  
 But Jove the greater ; first born of the skies,  
 And more than men, or Gods, supremely wise.  
 For this, of Jove's superior might afraid,  
 Neptune in human form conceal'd his aid.      450  
 These pow'rs infold the Greek and Trojan train  
 In war and discord's adamantine chain,

Book XIII. HOMER's ILIAD. 15

Indissolubly strong ; the fatal tie  
Is stretch'd on both, and close compell'd they die.

Dreadful in arms, and grown in combats grey, 455

The bold Idomeneus controls the day.

First by his hand Othryoneus was slain,

Swell'd with false hopes, with mad ambition vain !

Call'd by the voice of war to martial fame,

From high Gabesus' distant walls he came ; 460

Cassandra's love he sought with boasts of pow'r,

And promis'd conquest was the proffer'd dow'r.

The king consented, by his vaunts abus'd ;

The king consented, but the fates refus'd.

Proud of himself, and of th' imagin'd bride, 465

The field he measur'd with a larger stride.

Him, as he stalk'd, the Cretan jav'ln found :

Vain was his breast-plate to repel the wound :

His dream of glory lost, he plung'd to hell :

His arms resounded as the boaster fell 470

The great Idomeneus bestrides the dead ;

And thus, (he cries), behold thy promise sped !

Such is the help thy arms to Ilion bring,

And such the contract of the Parygian kin !

Our offers now, illustrious prince ! receive ; 475

For such an aid what will not Argos give ?

To conquer Troy, with ours thy forces join,

And count Atrides' fairest daughter thine.

Meantime, on farther methods to advise,

Come, follow to the fleet thy new allies ; 480

There hear what Greece has on her part to say.

He spoke, and dragg'd the gory corse away.

This Asius view'd, unable to contain,

Before his chariot warring on the plain ;

(His crowded coursers, to his squire confign'd, 485

Impatient panted on his neck behind) ;

To vengeance rising with a sudden spring,

He hop'd the conquest of the Cretan king.

## 56 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XIII.

The wary Cretan, as his foe drew near,  
 Full on his throat discharg'd the forceful spear : 490  
 Beneath the chin the point was seen to glide,  
 And glitter'd, extant at the farther side.  
 As when the mountain oak, or poplar tall,  
 Or pine, fit mast for some great admirals,  
 Groans to the oft-heav'd axe, with many a weund, 495  
 Then spreads a length of ruin o'er the ground :  
 So sunk proud Aias in that dreadful day,  
 And stretch'd before his much lov'd coursers lay.  
 He grinds the dust distain'd with streaming gore,  
 And, fierce in death, lies foaming on the shore. 500  
 Depriv'd of motion, stiff with stupid fear,  
 Stands all aghast his trembling charioteer,  
 Nor shuns the foe, nor turns the steeds away,  
 But falls transfix'd, an unresisting prey :  
 Pierc'd by Antilochus, he pants beneath 505  
 The stately car, and labours out his breath.  
 Thus Aias' steeds (their mighty master gone)  
 Remain the prize of Nestor's youthful son.  
 Stabb'd at the sight, Deiphobus drew nigh,  
 And made, with force, the vengeful weapon fly. 510  
 The Cretan saw ; and stooping, caus'd to glance  
 From his slope shield, the disappointed lance.  
 Beneath the spacious targe, (a blazing round,  
 Thick with bull-hides, and brazen orbits bound,  
 On his rais'd arm by two strong braces stay'd), 515  
 He lay collected in defensive shade.  
 O'er his safe head the jav'lin idly sung,  
 And on the tinkling verge more faintly rung.  
 Ev'n then, the spear the vig'rous arm confest,  
 And pierc'd, obliquely, king Hypsenor's breast : 520  
 Warm'd in his liver, to the ground it bore  
 The chief, his people's guardian now no more !  
 Not unattended, (the proud Trojan cries),  
 Nor unrevenge'd, lamented Aias lies :

Book XIII. HOMER's ILIAD. 17

For thee, though hell's black portals stand display'd,  
This mate shall joy thy melancholy shade. 526

Heart piercing anguish, at the haughty boast,  
Touch'd ev'ry Greek, but Nestor's son the most.  
Griev'd as he was, his pious arms attend,  
And his broad buckler shields his slaughter'd friend;  
Till sad Mecistheus and Alastor bore 531  
His honour'd body to the tented shore.

Nor yet from fight Idomeneus withdraws;  
Resolv'd to perish in his country's cause,  
Or find some foe whom heav'n and he shall doom 335

To wail his fate in death's eternal gloom.

He sees Alcathous in the front aspire;  
Great Æsyetes was the hero's fire;  
His spouse Hippodame, divinely fair,  
Anchises' eldest hope, and darling care; 540  
Who charm'd her parent's and her husband's heart,  
With beauty, sense, and ev'ry work of art:  
He once, of Ilion's youth, the loveliest boy,  
The fairest she, of all the fair of Troy.

By Neptune now the hapless hero dies, 545.

Who covers with a cloud those beauteous eyes,

And fetters ev'ry limb: yet bent to meet

His fate he stands; nor thuns the lance of Crete.

Fix'd as some column, or deep rooted oak,

(While the winds sleep), his breast receiv'd the stroke.

Before the pond'rous stroke his corselet yields, 551

Long us'd to ward the death in fighting fields,

The riven armour sends a jarring sound;

His lab'ring heart heaves with so strong a bound, }.

The long lance shakes, and vibrates in the wound; }

Fast flowing from its source, as prone he lay, 556

Life's purple tide impetuous gush'd away.

Then Idomen, insulting o'er the slain;

Behold, Deiphobus! nor vapnt in vain;

## 18 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XIII.

See ! on one Greek three Trojan ghosts attend, 560  
This my third victim, to the shades I send.

Approaching now, thy boasted might approve,  
And try the prowess of the seed of Jove.  
From Jove, enamour'd on a mortal dame,  
Great Minos, guardian of his country, came : 565  
Deucalion, blameless prince ! was Minos' heir ;  
His first-born I, the third from Jupiter :

O'er spacious Crete, and her bold sons I reign,  
And thence my ships transport me through the main :  
Lord of a host, o'er all my host I shine, 570  
A scourge to thee, thy father, and thy line.

The Trojan heard ; uncertain, or to meet  
Alone, with vent'rous arms, the king of Crete ;  
Or seek auxilar force : at length decreed  
To call some hero to partake the deed, 575  
Forthwith Æneas rises to his thought ;  
For him, in Troy's remotest lines, he sought,  
Where he, incens'd at partial Priam, stands,  
And sees superior posts in meaner hands.  
To him, ambitious of so great an aid, 580  
The bold Deiphobus approach'd, and said :

Now, Trojan prince, employ thy pious arms,  
If e'er thy bosom felt fair honour's charms.  
Alcathous dies, thy brother and thy friend !  
Come, and the warrior's lov'd remains defend. 585  
Beneath his cares thy early youth was train'd,  
One table fed you, and one roof contain'd.  
This deed to fierce Idomeneus we owe ;  
Haste, and revenge it on th' insulting foe.

Æneas heard, and for a space resign'd 590  
To tender pity all his manly mind ;  
Then rising in his rage, he burns to fight :  
The Greek awaits him, with collected might.  
As the fell boar on some rough mountain's head,  
Arm'd with wild terrors, and to slaughter bred,

595

Book XIII. HOMER'S ILIAD. 19

When the loud rustics rise, and shouts from far,  
Attends the tumult, and expects the war;  
O'er his bent back the bristly horrors rise,  
Fires stream in lightning from his sanguine eyes,  
His foaming tusks both dogs and men engage, 600  
But most his hunters rouse his mighty rage:  
So stood Idomeneus, his jav'lin shook,  
And met the Trojan with a louring look.

Antilochus, Deipyrus were near,  
The youthful offspring of the God of war, 605  
Merion, and Aphareus, in field renown'd:  
To these the warrior sent his voice around.  
Fellows in arms! your timely aid unite;  
Lo, great Æneas rushes to the fight:  
Sprung from a God, and more than mortal bold; 610  
He fresh in youth, and I in arms grown old.  
Else should this hand, this hour, decide the strife,  
The great dispute, of glory, or of life.

He spoke, and all as with one soul obey'd;  
Their lifted bucklers cast a dreadful shade 615  
Around the chief. Æneas too demands  
Th' assisting forces of his native bands:  
Paris, Deiphobus, Agenor join;  
(Co-aids and captains of the Trojan line);  
In order follow all th' embody'd train; 620  
Like Ida's flocks proceeding o'er the plain;  
Before his fleecy care, erect and bold,  
Stalks the proud ram, the father of the fold:  
With joy the swains surveys them, as he leads  
To the cool fountains, through the well known meads.  
So joys Æneas, as his native band 626  
Moves on in rank, and stretches o'er the land.

Round dead Alcathous now the battle rose;  
On ev'ry side the steely circles grows;  
Now batter'd breast plates and hack'd helmets ring,  
And o'er their heads unheeded jav'lins sing. 631

## 20. HOMER's ILIAD. Book XIII.

Above the rest, two tow'ring chiefs appear,  
There great Idomeneus, Æneas here.

Like Gods of war, dispensing fate, they stood,  
And burn'd to drench the ground with mutual blood.  
The Trojan weapon whizz'd along in air, 636.

The Cretan saw, and shunn'd the brazen spear:  
Sent from an arm so strong, the missive wood  
Stuck deep in earth, and quiver'd where it stood.

But Oenomas receiv'd the Cretan's stroke, 640  
The forceful spear his hollow corslet broke,  
It ripp'd his belly with a ghastly wound,  
And roll'd the smoking entrails to the ground.  
Stretch'd on the plain, he sobs away his breath,  
And furious grasps the bloody dust in death. 645

The victor from his breast the weapon tears;  
(His spoils he could not, for the show'r of spears),  
Though now unfit an active war to wage,  
Heavy with cumb'rous arms, stiff with cold age,  
His listless limbs unable for the course; 650  
In standing fight he yet maintains his force;  
Till faint with labour, and by foes repell'd,  
His tir'd, slow steps, he drags from off the field.

Deiphobus beheld him as he past,  
And, fir'd with hate, a parting jav'lin cast: 655  
The jav'lin err'd, but held its course along,  
And pierc'd Ascalaphus, the brave and young;  
The son of Mars fell gasping on the ground,  
And gnash'd the dust all bloody with his wound.

Nor knew the furious father of his fall; 660  
High thron'd amidst the great Olympian hall,  
On golden clouds th' immortal synod sat;  
Detain'd from bloody war by Jove and Fate.

Now, where in dust the breathless hero lay,  
For slain Ascalaphus commenc'd the fray. 665  
Deiphobus to seize his helmet flies,  
And from his temples rends the glitt'ring prize:

Valiant as Mars, Meriones drew near,  
And on his loaded arm discharg'd his spear :  
He drops the weight, disabled with the pain ; 670  
The hollow helmet rings against the plain.  
Swift as a vulture leaping on his prey,  
From his torn arm the Grecian rent away  
The reeking jav'lin, and rejoin'd his friends.  
His wounded brother good Polites tends ; 675  
Around his waist his pious arms he threw,  
And from the rage of combat gently drew :  
Him his swift coursers, on his splendid car  
Rapt from the less'ning thunder of the war ;  
To Troy they drove him, groaning from the shore,  
And sprinkling, as he past, the sands with gore. 681  
Meanwhile fresh slaughter bathes the sanguine  
ground,  
Heaps fall on heaps, and heav'n and earth resound.  
Bold Aphareus by great Æneas bled :  
As tow'r'd the chief he turn'd his daring head, 685  
He pierc'd his throat ; the bending head, deprest  
Beneath his helmet, nods upon his breast ;  
His shield revers'd o'er the fall'n warrior lies ;  
And everlasting slumber seals his eyes.  
Antilochus, as Thoön turn'd him round, 690  
Transpierc'd his back with a dishonest wound ;  
The hollow vein that to the neck extends  
Along the chine, his eager jav'lin rends :  
Supine he falls, and to his social train  
Spreads his imploring arms, but spreads in vain. 695  
Th' exulting victor, leaping where he lay,  
From his broad shoulders tore the spoils away ;  
His time observ'd, for clos'd by foes around,  
On all sides thick, the peals of arms resound.  
His shield emboss'd, the ringing storm sustains, 700  
But he impervious and untouch'd remains.

(Great Neptune's care preserv'd from hostile rage  
 This youth, the joy of Nestor's glorious age);  
 In arms intrepid, with the first he fought,  
 Fac'd ev'ry foe, and ev'ry danger sought;      705  
 His winged lance, resistless as the wind,  
 Obeys each motion of the master's mind,  
 Restless it flies, impatient to be free,  
 And meditates the distant enemy.

The son of Asius, Adamus drew near,      710  
 And struck his target with the brazen spear,  
 Fierce in his front; but Neptune wards the blow,  
 And blunts the jav'lin of th' eluded foe.

In the broad buckler half the weapon stood;  
 Splinter'd on earth flew half the broken wood.      715  
 Disarm'd, he mingled in the Trojan crew;  
 But Merion's spear o'ertook him as he flew,  
 Deep in the belly's rim an entrance found,  
 Where sharp the pang, and mortal is the wound. }  
 Bending he fell, and doubled to the ground,      720  
 Lay panting. Thus an ox, in fetters ty'd,  
 While death's strong pangs distend his lab'ring side,  
 His bulk enormous on the field displays;  
 His heaving heart beats thick, as ebbing life decays.

The spear, the conqu'ror from his body drew,      725  
 And death's dim shadows swam before his view.

Next brave Deipyrus in dust was laid;  
 King Helenus wav'd high the Thracian blade,  
 And smote his temples, with an arm so strong,  
 The helm fell off, and roll'd amid the throng:      730  
 There, for some luckier Greek it rests a prize,  
 For dark in death the godlike owner lies!  
 Raging with grief, great Menelaus burns,  
 And fraught with vengeance, to the victor turns;  
 That shook the pond'rous lance, in act to throw,      735  
 And this stood adverse with the bended bow:

Full on his breast the Trojan arrow fell,  
But harmless bounded from the plated steel.  
As on some ample barn's well-harden'd floor,  
(The winds collected at each open door), 740  
While the broad fan with force is whirl'd around,  
Light leaps the golden grain, resulting from the ground:  
So from the steel that guards Atrides' heart,  
Repell'd to distance flies the bounding dart.

Atrides, watchful of th' unwary foe, 745  
Pierc'd with his lance the hand that grasp'd the bow,  
And nail'd it to the yew: the wounded hand  
Trail'd the long lance that mark'd with blood the sand:  
But good Agenor gently from the wound  
The spear solicits, and the bandage bound; 750  
A sling's soft wool, snatch'd from a soldier's side,  
At once the tent and ligature supply'd.

Behold! Pisander, urg'd by fate's decree,  
Springs through the ranks to fall, and fall by thee,  
Great Menelaus! To enhance thy fame, 755  
High tow'ring in the front, the warrior came.  
First the sharp lance was by Atrides thrown;  
The lance far distant by the winds was blown.  
Nor pierc'd Pisander through Atrides' shield:  
Pisander's spear fell shiver'd on the field. 760  
Not so discourag'd, to the future blind,  
Vain dreams of conquest swell his haughty mind:  
Dauntless he rushes where the Spartan lord  
Like lightning brandish'd his far-beaming sword.  
His left arm high oppos'd the shining shield: 765  
His right, beneath, the cover'd pole-ax held;  
(An olive's cloudy grain the handle made,  
Distinct with studs: and brazen was the blade):  
This on the helm discharg'd a noble blow;  
The plume dropp'd nodding to the plain below, 770  
Shorn from the crest. Atrides wav'd his steel:  
Deep through his front the weighty faulchion fell;

## 64 HOMER's ILIAD. Book XIII.

The crashing bones before its force gave way ;  
 In dust and blood the groaning hero lay ;  
 Forc'd from their ghastly orbs and spouting gore, 775  
 The clotted eye-balls tumble on the shore.  
 The fierce Atrides spurn'd him as he bled,  
 Tore off his arms, and loud exulting, said :

Thus, Trojans, thus, at length be taught to fear :  
 O race perfidious, who delight in war ! 780  
 Already noble deeds ye have perform'd,  
 A princess rapt transcends a navy storm'd :  
 In such bold feats your impious might approve,  
 Without th' assistance, or the fear of Jove.  
 The violated rites, the ravish'd dame, 785  
 Our heroes slaughter'd, and our ships on flame,  
 Crimes heap'd on crimes, shall bend your glory down,  
 And whelm in ruins yon flagitious town.

O thou, great Father ! Lord of earth and skies,  
 Above the thought of man, supremely wise ! 790  
 If from thy hand the fates of mortals flow,  
 From whence this favour to an impious foe,  
 A godless crew, abandon'd and unjust,  
 Still breathing rapine, violence, and lust ?  
 The best of things beyond their measure, cloy : 795  
 Sleep's balmy blessing, love's endearing joy ;  
 The feast, the dance ; whate'er mankind desire,  
 Ev'n the sweet charms of sacred numbers tire.  
 But Troy for ever reaps a dire delight  
 In thirst of slaughter, and in lust of fight. 800

This said, he seiz'd (while yet the carcase heav'd)  
 The bloody armour, which his train receiv'd :  
 Then sudden mix'd among the warring crew,  
 And the bold son of Pylæmenes flew.  
 Harpalion had through Asia travell'd far, 805  
 Following his martial father to the war :  
 Through filial love he left his native shore,  
 Never, ah never, to behold it more !

His unsuccessful spear he chanc'd to fling  
Against the target of the Spartan king ;      810  
Thus of his lance disarm'd, from death he flies,  
And turns around his apprehensive eyes.  
Him, through the hip transpiercing as he fled,  
The shaft of Merion mingled with the dead.  
Beneath the bone the glancing point descends,      815  
And driving down, the swelling bladder rends :  
Sunk in his sad companions arms he lay,  
And in short pantings sobb'd his soul away ;  
(Like some vile worm extended on the ground),  
While life's red torrent gush'd from out the wound.      820

Him on his car the Paphlagonian train  
In slow procession bore from off the plain.  
The pensive father, father now no more !  
Attends the mournful pomp along the shore ;  
And unavailing tears profusely shed,      825  
And unreveng'd, deplored his offspring dead.

Paris from far the moving sight beheld,  
With pity soften'd, and with fury swell'd :  
His honour'd host, a youth of matchless grace,  
And lov'd of all the Paphlagonian race !      830  
With his full strength he bent his angry bow,  
And wing'd the feather'd vengeance at the foe.  
A chief there was, the brave Euchenor nam'd,  
For riches much, and more for virtue fam'd,  
Who held his seat in Corinth's stately town ;      835  
Polydus' son, a peer of old renown.  
Oft had the father told his early doom,  
By arms abroad, or slow disease at home ;  
He climb'd his vessel, prodigal of breath,  
And chose the certain, glorious path to death.      840  
Beneath his ear the pointed arrow went ;  
The soul came issuing at the narrow vent :  
His limbs, unnerv'd, drop useless on the ground,  
And everlasting darkness shades him round.

Nor knew great Hector how his legions yield, 845  
(Wrapt in the cloud and tumult of the field);  
Wide on the left the force of Greece commands,  
And conquest hovers o'er the Achaian bands:  
With such a tide superior virtue sway'd,  
And he that shakes the solid earth, gave aid. 850  
But in the centre Hector fix'd remain'd,  
Where first the gates were forc'd, and bulwarks gain'd;  
There, on the margin of the hoary deep,  
(Their naval station where th' Ajaces keep,  
And where low walls confine the beating tides, 855  
Whose humble barrier scarce the foes divides;  
Where late in fight, both foot and horse engag'd,  
And all the thunder of the battle rag'd);  
There join'd, the whole Boeotian strength remains,  
The proud Ionians with their sweeping trains, 860  
Locrians and Phthians, and th' Epæan force;  
But join'd, repel not Hector's fiery course.  
The flow'r of Athens, Stichius, Phidas led;  
Bias, and great Menestheus at their head.  
Meges the strong th' Epeian bands controll'd, 865  
And Dracius prudent, and Amphion bold:  
The Phthians Medon, fam'd for martial might,  
And brave Podarces, active in the fight.  
This drew from Phylacus his noble line;  
Iphiclus' son: and that, Oileus, thine: 870  
(Young Ajax' brother, by a stol'n embrace;  
He dwelt far distant from his native place,  
By his fierce stepdame from his father's reign  
Expell'd and exil'd, for her brother slain.)  
These rule the Phthians, and their arms employ, 875  
Mix'd with Boeotians, on the shores of Troy.  
Now side by side, with like unwearied care,  
Each Ajax labour'd through the field of war.  
So when two lordly bulls, with equal toil,  
Force the bright ploughshare through the fallow soil, 880

Book XIII. HOMER's ILIAD. 27

Join'd to one yoke, the stubborn earth they tear,  
And trace large furrows with the shining share ;  
O'er their huge limbs the foam descends in snow,  
And streams of sweat down their sour foreheads flow.

A train of heroes follow'd through the field, 885

Who bore by turns great Ajax' sev'nfold shield ;  
Whene'er he breath'd, remissive of his might,  
Tir'd with th' incessant slaughters of the fight.

No following troops his brave associate grace :

In close engagement an unpractis'd race, 890

The Locrian squadrons nor the jav'lin wield,  
Nor bear the helm, nor lift the moony shield ;  
But skill'd from far the flying shaft to wing,  
Or whirl the sounding pebble from the sling,  
Dextrous with these they aim a certain wound, 895

Or fell the distant warrior to the ground.

Thus in the van, the Telamonian train

Throng'd in bright arms, a pressing fight maintain ;

Far in the rear the Locrian archers lie,

Whose stones and arrows intercept the sky, 900

The mingled tempest on the foes they pour ;

Troy's scatt'ring orders open to the shov'r.

Now had the Greeks eternal fame acquir'd,  
And the gall'd Ilians to their walls retir'd ;  
But sage Polydamas, discreetly brave, 905

Address'd great Hector, and this counsel gave.

Though great in all, thou seem'st averse to lend  
Impartial audience to a faithful friend ;  
To Gods and men thy matchless worth is known,

And ev'ry art of glorious war thy own ; 910

But in cool thought and counsel to excel,

How widely differs this from warring well ?

Content with what the bounteous Gods have giv'n,

Seek not alone t' ingross the gifts of heav'n.

To some the pow'rs of bloody war belong, 915

To some, sweet music, and the charm of song ;

To few, and wondrous few, has Jove affigh'd  
 A wise, extensive, all-considering mind ;  
 Their guardians these, the nations round confess,  
 And towns and empires for their safety bless. 920  
 If heav'n have lodg'd this virtue in my breast,  
 Attend, O Hector, what I judge the best.  
 See, as thou mov'st, on dangers dangers spread,  
 And war's whole fury burns around thy head.  
 Behold ! distress'd within yon hostile wall, 925  
 How many Trojans yield, disperse, or fall ?  
 What troops, out-number'd, scarce the war maintain ?  
 And what brave heroes at the ships lie slain ?  
 Here cease thy fury ; and the chiefs and kings  
 Convok'd to council, weigh the sum of things. 930  
 Whether (the Gods succeeding our desires)  
 To yon tall ships to bear the Trojan fires ;  
 Or quit the fleet, and pass unhurt away,  
 Contented with the conquest of the day.  
 I fear, I fear, lest Greece, not yet undone, 935  
 Pay the large debt of last revolving sun ;  
 Achilles, great Achilles, yet remains  
 On yonder decks, and yet o'erlooks the plains !

The counsel pleas'd ; and Hector, with a bound,  
 Leap'd from his chariot on the trembling ground ; }  
 Swift as he leap'd, his clanging arms resound. 941 }  
 To guard this post (he cry'd) thy art employ,  
 And here detain the scatter'd youth of Troy ;  
 Where yonder heroes faint, I bend my way,  
 And hasten back to end the doubtful day. 945

This said, the tow'ring chief prepares to go,  
 Shakes his white plumes that to the breezes flow, }  
 And seems a moving mountain topt with snow.  
 Through all his host, inspiring force, he flies,  
 And bids anew the martial thunder rise. 950 }  
 To Panthus' son, at Hector's high command,  
 Hastle the bold leaders of the Trojan band :

But round the battlements, and round the plain,  
For many a chief he look'd, but look'd in vain :  
Deiphobus, nor Helenus the seer, 955  
Nor Asius' son, nor Asius' self appear.

For these were pierc'd with many a ghastly wound,  
Some cold in death, some groaning on the ground ;  
Some low in dust (a mournful object) lay ;  
High on the wall some breath'd their souls away. 960

Far on the left, amid the throng he found  
(Cheering the troops, and dealing deaths around)  
The graceful Paris ; whom, with fury mov'd,  
Opprobrious, thus, th' impatient chief reprov'd.

Ill fated Paris ! slave to womankind, 965  
As smooth of face as fraudulent of mind !  
Where is Deiphobus, where Asius gone ?  
The godlike father, and th' intrepid son ?  
The force of Helenus, dispensing fate,  
And great Othryoneus, so fear'd of late ? 970  
Black fate hangs o'er thee from th' avenging Gods,  
Imperial Troy from her foundations nods ;  
Whelm'd in thy country's ruins shalt thou fall,  
And one devouring vengeance swallow all.

When Paris thus : My brother and my friend, 975  
Thy warm impatience makes thy tongue offend.  
In other battles I deserv'd thy blame,  
Though then not deedless, nor unknown to fame :  
But since yon rampart by thy arms lay low,  
I scatter'd slaughter from my fatal bow. 980  
The chiefs you seek on yonder shore lie slain ;  
Of all those heroes, two alone remain ;  
Deiphobus, and Helenus the seer :  
Each now disabled by a hostile spear.  
Go then, successful, where thy soul inspires : 985  
This heart and hand shall second all thy fires :  
What with this arm I can, prepare to know,  
Till death for death be paid, and blow for blow.

But 'tis not ours, with forces not our own  
To combat ; strength is of the Gods alone. 990

These words the hero's angry mind assuage :

Then fierce they mingle where the thickest rage.

Around Polydamas, distain'd with blood,

Cebrius, Phalces, stern Orthæus stood,

Palmus, with Polypœtes the divine, 995

And two bold brothers of Hippotion's line,

(Who reach'd fair Ilion, from Ascania far,

The former day ; the next engag'd in war.)

As when from gloomy clouds a whirlwind springs,

That bears Jove's thunder on its dreadful wings, 1000

Wide o'er the blasted fields the tempest sweeps ;

Then gather'd, settles on the hoary deeps ;

Th' afflicted deeps tumultuous mix and roar ;

The waves behind impel the waves before, [shore.]

Wide rolling, foaming high, and tumbling to the

Thus rank on rank the thick battalions throng, 1006

Chief urg'd on chief, and man drove man along.

Far o'er the plains in dreadful order bright,

The brazen arms reflect a beamy light :

Full in the blazing van great Hector shin'd, 1010

Like Mars commission'd to confound mankind.

Before him flaming, his enormous shield,

Like the broad sun, illumin'd all the field :

His nodding helm emits a streamy ray ;

His piercing eyes through all the battle stray, 1015

And, while beneath his targe he flash'd along.

Shot terrors round, that wither'd ev'n the strong.

Thus stalk'd he, dreadful ; death was in his look ;

Whole nations fear'd : but not an Argive shook

The tow'ring Ajax, with an ample stride, 1020

Advanc'd the first, and thus the chief defy'd.

Hector ! come on, thy empty threats forbear :

'Tis not thy arm, 'tis thund'ring Jove we fear :

The skill of war to us not idly giv'n,

Lo ! Greece is humbled, not by Troy, but heav'n. 1025

Book XIII. HOMER's ILIAD. 31

Vain are the hopes that haughty mind imparts,  
To force our fleet : the Greeks have hands and hearts.  
Long ere in flames our lofty navy fall,  
Your boasted city, and your god-built wall  
Shall sink beneath us, smoaking on the ground ; 1030  
And spread a long, unmeasur'd ruin round.  
The time shall come, when chas'd along the plain,  
Ev'n thou shalt call on Jove, and call in vain :  
Ev'n thou shalt wish, to aid thy desp'rate course,  
The wings of falcons for thy flying horse ; 1035  
Shalt run, forgetful of a warrior's fame,  
While clouds of friendly dust conceal thy shame.

As thus he spoke, behold, in open view,  
On sounding wings a dexter eagle flew.  
To Jove's glad omen all the Grecians rise, 1040  
And hail, with shouts, his progress through the skies :  
Far-echoing clamours bound from side to side :  
They ceas'd, and thus the chieft of Troy reply'd.

From whence this menace, this insulting strain ?  
Enormous boaster ! doom'd to vaunt in vain. 1045  
So may the Gods on Hector life bestow,  
(Not that short life which mortals lead below,  
But such as those of Jove's high lineage born,  
The blue-ey'd maid, or he that gilds the morn),  
As this decisive day shall end the fame 1050  
Of Greece, and Argos be no more a name.  
And thou, imperious ! if thy madness wait  
The lance of Hector, thou shalt meet thy fate :  
That giant-corse, extended on the shore,  
Shall largely feast the fowls with fat and gore. 1055

He said, and like a lion stalk'd along :  
With shouts incessant earth and ocean rung,  
Sent from his following host : the Grecian train  
With answ'ring thunders fill'd the echoing plain :  
A shout that tore heav'n's concave and above 1060  
Shook the fix'd splendours of the throne of Jove.



T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K X I V.

T H E A R G U M E N T.

Juno deceives Jupiter by the girdle of Venus.

Nestor sitting at the table with Machaon, is alarmed with the increasing clamour of the war, and hastens to Agamemnon: on his way he meets that prince with Diomed and Ulysses, whom he informs of the extremity of the danger. Agamemnon proposes to make their escape by night, which Ulysses withstands: to which Diomed adds his advice, that, wounded as they were, they should go forth and encourage the army with their presence: which advice is pursued. Juno seeing the partiality of Jupiter to the Trojans, forms a design to over-reach him; she sets off her charms with the utmost care, and (the more surely to enchant him) obtains the magic girdle of Venus. She then applies herself to the God of sleep: and, with some difficulty, persuades him to seal the eyes of Jupiter; this done, she goes to mount Ida, where the God, at first sight, is ravished with her beauty, sinks in her embraces, and is laid asleep. Neptune takes

*advantage of his slumber, and succours the Greeks: Hector is struck to the ground with a prodigious stone by Ajax, and carried off from the battle: several actions succeed; till the Trojans, much distressed, are obliged to give way: the lesser Ajax signalizes himself in a particular manner.*

BUT nor the genial feast, nor flowing bowl,  
Could charm the cares of Nestor's watchful soul:  
His startled ears th' increasing cries attend;  
Then thus, impatient, to his wounded friend.

What new alarm, divine Machaon, say,      5  
What mix'd event attend this mighty day?  
Hark! how the shouts divide, and how they meet,  
And now come full, and thicken to the fleet!  
Here, with the cordial draught dispel thy care,  
Let Hecamede, the strength'ning bath prepare,      10  
Refresh thy wound, and cleanse the clotted gore;  
While I th' adventures of the day explore.

He said: and seizing Thrasimedes' shield,  
(His valiant offspring), hasten'd to the field;  
(That day, the son his father's buckler bore),      15  
Then snatch'd a lance, and issu'd from the door.  
Soon as the prospect open'd to his view,  
His wounded eyes the scene of sorrow knew;  
Dire disarray! the tumult of the fight,  
The wall in ruins, and the Greeks in flight.      20  
As when old Ocean's silent surface sleeps,  
The waves just heaving on the purple deeps:  
While yet th' expected tempest hangs on high,  
Weighs down the cloud, and blackens in the sky,  
The mass of waters will no wind obey;      25  
Jove tends one gust, and bids them roll away.  
While wav'ring counsels thus his mind engage,  
Fluctuates in doubtful thought the Pylian sage,

To join the host, or to the gen'ral haste ;  
Debating long, he fixes on the last :                   30  
Yet, as he moves, the fight his bosom warms ;  
The field rings dreadful with the clang of arms ;  
The gleaming faulchions flash, the jav'lins fly ;  
Blows echo blows, and all or kill, or die.

Him, in his march, the wounded princes meet,   35  
By tardy steps ascending from the fleet :  
The king of men, Ulysses the divine,  
And who to Tydeus owes his noble line.  
(Their ships at distance from the battle stand,  
In lines advanc'd along the shelving strand ;       40  
Whose bay the fleet unable to contain  
At length, beside the margin of the main,  
Rank above rank, the crowded ships they moor :  
Who landed first, lay highest on the shore).  
Supported on their spears, they took their way,   45  
Unfit to fight, but anxious for the day.  
Nestor's approach alarm'd each Grecian breast,  
Whom thus the gen'ral of the host addrest.

O grace and glory of th' Achaian name !  
What drives thee, Nestor, from the field of fame ?   50  
Shall then proud Hector see his boast fulfill'd,  
Our fleets in ashes and our heroes kill'd ?  
Such was his threat, ah ! now too soon made good,  
On many a Grecian bosom writ in blood.  
Is ev'ry heart inflam'd with equal rage              55  
Against your king, nor will one chief engage ?  
And have I liv'd to see with mournful eyes  
In ev'ry Greek a new Achilles rise ?

Gerenian Nestor then. So fate has will'd ;  
And all confirming time has late fulfill'd.           60  
Not he that thunders from th' aereal bow'r,  
Not Jove himself upon the past has pow'r.  
The wall, our late inviolable bound,  
And best defence, lies smoaking on the ground :

Book XIV. HOMER's ILIAD. 35

Ev'n to the ships their conqu'ring arms extend, 65  
And groans of slaughter'd Greeks to heav'n ascend.  
On speedy measures then employ your thought,  
In such distress, if council profit ought ;  
Arms cannot much ; though Mars our souls incite,  
These gaping wounds with-hold us from the fight. 70

To him the monarch. That our army bends,  
That Troy triumphant our high fleet ascends,  
And that the rampart, late our surest trust,  
And best defence, lies smoaking in the dust ;  
All this from Jove's afflictive hand we bear, 75  
Who, far from Argos, wills our ruin here.

Past are the days when happier Greece was bless'd,  
And all his favour, all his aid confes'd ;  
Now heav'n averse, our hands from battle ties,  
And lifts the Trojan glory to the skies. 80

Cease we at length to waste our blood in vain,  
And launch what ships lie nearest to the main ;  
Leave these at anchor till the coming night :  
Then, if impetuous Troy forbear the fight,  
Bring all to sea, and hoist each sail for flight. 85 }  
Better from evils, well foreseen, to run,  
Than perish in the danger we may shun.

Thus he. The sage Ulysses thus replies,  
While anger flash'd from his disdainful eyes.  
What shameful words, unkingly as thou art, 90  
Fall from that trembling tongue, and tim'rous heart !  
Oh were thy sway the curse of meaner pow'rs,  
And thou the shame of any host but ours !  
A host, by Jove endu'd with martial might,  
And taught to conquer, or to fall in fight : 95  
Adventurous combats and bold wars to wage,  
Employ'd our youth, and yet employs our age.  
And wilt thou thus desert the Trojan plain ?  
And have whole streams of blood been spilt in vain ?

In such base sentence if thou couch thy fear, 100  
Speak it in whispers, lest a Greek should hear.  
Lives there a man so dead to fame, who dares  
To think such meanness, or the thought declares ?  
And comes it ev'n from him whose sov'reign sway  
The banded legions of all Greece obey ? 105  
Is this a gen'ral's voice, that calls to flight,  
While war hangs doubtful, while his soldiers fight ?  
What more could Troy ? What yet their fate denies,  
Thou giv'st the foe ; all Greece becomes their prize.  
No more the troops (our hoisted sails in view, 110  
Themselves abandon'd) shall the fight pursue  
Thy ships first flying with despair shall see,  
And owe destruction to a prince like thee.

Thy just reproofs (Atrides calm replies)  
Like arrows pierce me, for thy words are wise. 115  
Unwilling as I am to lose the host,  
I force not Greece to quit this hateful coast.  
Glad I submit, whoe'er, or young or old,  
Aught more conducive to our weal unfold.

Tydides cut him short, and thus began. 120  
Such counsel if you seek, behold the man  
Who boldly gives it, and what he shall say,  
Young though he be, disdain not to obey.  
A youth, who from the mighty Tydeus springs,  
May speak to councils and assembled kings. 125  
Hear then in me the great Oenides' son,  
Whose honour'd dust (his race of glory run)  
Lies whelm'd in ruins of the Theban wall ;  
Brave in his life, and glorious in his fall.  
With three bold sons was gen'rous Prothous bles'd,  
Who Pleuron's walls and Calydon posse's'd ; 130  
Melas and Agrius, but (who far surpast  
The rest in courage) Oeneus was the last.  
From him, my sire. From Calydon expell'd,  
He pass'd to Argos, and in exile dwell'd ; 135  
The monarch's daughter there (so Jove ordain'd)

He won, and flourish'd where Adraustus reign'd;

There rich in fortune's gifts, his acres till'd,

Beheld his vines their liquid harvest yield,

And num'rous flocks that whiten'd all the field.

Such Tydeus was, the foremost once in fame!

Nor lives in Greece a stranger to his name.

Then, what for common good my thoughts inspire,

Attend, and in the son respect the fire.

Though sore of battle, though with wounds opprest,

Let each go forth, and animate the rest,

Advance the glory which he cannot share,

Though not partaker, witness of the war.

But left new wounds on wounds o'erpow'r us quite,

Beyond the missile jav'lin's sounding flight,

Safe let us stand; and from the tumult far,

Inspire the ranks, and rule the distant war.

He added not: the list'ning kings obey,

Slow moving on; Atrides leads the way.

The God of Ocean (to inflame their rage)

Appears a warrior furrow'd o'er with age;

Press'd in his own, the gen'ral's hand he took,

And thus the venerable hero spoke.

Atrides, lo! with what disdainful eye

Achilles sees his country's forces fly:

Blind impious man! whose anger is his guide,

Who glories in unutterable pride.

So may he perish, so may Jove disclaim

The wretch relentless, and o'erwhelm'd with shame!

But heav'n forsakes not thee: o'er yonder sands

Soon shalt thou view the scatter'd Trojan bands

Fly diverse; while proud kings, and chiefs renown'd,

Driv'n heaps on heaps, with clouds involv'd around

Of rolling dust, their winged wheels employ

To hide their ignominious heads in Troy.

He spoke, then rush'd amid the warrior-crew;

And sent his voice before him as he flew,

Loud as the shout encount'ring armies yield,  
 When twice ten thousand shake the lab'ring field ;  
 Such was the voice, and such the thund'ring sound  
 Of him, whose trident rends the solid ground. 176  
 Each Argive bosom beats to meet the fight,  
 And g'isly war appears a pleasing sight.

Meantime Saturnia from Olympus' brow,  
 High-thron'd in gold, beheld the fields below ; 180  
 With joy the glorious conflict she survey'd,  
 Where her great brother gave the Grecians aid.  
 But plac'd aloft, on Ida's shady height  
 She sees her Jove, and trembles at the sight.  
 Jove to deceive, what methods shall she try, 185  
 What arts, to blind his all-beholding eye ?  
 At length she trusts her pow'r ; resolv'd to prove  
 " The old, yet still successful, cheat of love ; "  
 Against his wisdom to oppose her charms,  
 And lull the Lord of thunders in her arms. 190

Swift to her bright apartment she repairs,  
 Sacred to dress and beauty's pleasing cares :  
 With skill divine had Vulcan form'd the bow'r,  
 Safe from access of each intruding pow'r.  
 Touch'd with her secret key, the doors unfold ; 195  
 Self-clos'd, behind her shut the valves of gold.  
 Here first she bathes ; and round her body pours  
 Soft oils of fragrance, and ambrosial show'rs ;  
 The winds, perfum'd, the balmy gale convey  
 Through heav'n, through earth, and all th' aereal  
 way ; 200

Spirit divine ! whose exhalation greets  
 The sense of Gods with more than mortal sweets.  
 Thus while she breath'd of heav'n, with decent pride  
 Her artful hands the radiant tresses ty'd ;  
 Part on her head in shining ringlets roll'd, 205  
 Part o'er her shoulders wav'd like melted gold.

Book XIV. HOMER's ILIA D. 39

Around her neck a heavn'ly mantle flow'd,  
That rich with Pallas' labour'd colours glow'd :  
Large clasps of gold the foldings gather'd round,  
A golden zone her swelling bosom bound, 210  
Far beaming pendants tremble in her ear,  
Each gem illumin'd with a triple star.

Then o'er her head she casts a veil more white  
Than new-fall'n snow, and dazzling as the light.  
Last her fair feet celestial sandals grace. 215  
Thus issuing radiant, with majestic pace,  
Forth from the dome th'imperial Goddess moves,  
And calls the mother of the smiles and loves.

How long (to Venus thus apart she cry'd)  
Shall human strifes celestial minds divide ? 220  
Ah yet will Venus aid Saturnia's joy,  
And set aside the cause of Greece and Troy ?

Let heav'n's dread empress (Cytheræa said)  
Speak her request, and deem her will obey'd.  
Then grant me (said the queen) those conqu'ring  
charms, 225  
That pow'r, which mortals and immortals warms,  
That love, which melts mankind in fierce desires,  
And burns the sons of heav'n with sacred fires !

For lo ! I haste to those remote abodes,  
Where the great parents (sacred source of Gods !) 230  
Ocean and Tethy's their old empire keep,  
On the last limits of the land and deep.  
In their kind arms my tender years were past ;  
What time old Saturn, from Olympus cast,  
Of upper heav'n to Jove resign'd the reign, 235  
Whelm'd under the huge mass of earth and main.  
For strife, I hear, has made the union cease,  
Which held so long that ancient pair in peace.  
What honour, and what love shall I obtain,  
If I compose those fatal feuds again ; 240

Once more their minds in mutual ties engage,  
And what my youth has ow'd, repay their age?

She said. With awe divine the queen of love  
Obey'd the sister and the wife of Jove:  
And from her fragrant breast the zone unbrac'd, 245;  
With various skill, and high embroid'ry grac'd.  
In this was ev'ry art, and ev'ry charm,  
To win the wisest; and the coldest warm:  
Fond love, the gentle vow, the gay desire,  
The kind deceit, the still reviving fire, 250  
Persuasive speech, and more persuasive sighs,  
Silence that spoke, and eloquence of eyes.  
This on her hand the Cyprian Goddess laid:  
Take this, and with it all thy wish, she said.  
With smiles she took the charm; and smiling prest  
The pow'rful cestus to her snowy breast. 255

Then Venus to the courts of Jove withdrew;  
Whilst from Olympus pleas'd Saturnia flew.  
O'er high Pieria thence her course she bore,  
O'er fair Emathia's ever-pleasing shore, 260  
O'er Hæmus' hills with snows eternal crown'd;  
Nor once her flying foot approach'd the ground.  
Then taking wing from Athos' lofty steep,  
She speeds to Lemnos o'er the rolling deep,  
And seeks the cave of Death's half-brother, Sleep. }  
Sweet pleasing Sleep! (Saturnia thus began), 265  
Who spread'st thy empire o'er each God and man;  
If e'er obsequious to thy Juno's will,  
O pow'r of flumbers! hear, and favour still.  
Shed thy soft dews on Jove's immortal eyes. 270  
While sunk in love's entrancing joys he lies.  
A splendid footstool, and a throne that shine;  
With gold unfading, Somnus, shall be thine;  
The work of Vulcan; to indulge thy ease;  
When wine and feasts thy golden humours please. 275

Imperial dame, (the balmy pow'r replies),  
Great Saturn's heir, and empress of the skies !  
O'er other Gods I spread my easy chain ;  
The fire of all, old Oceaan, owns my reign,  
And his hush'd waves lie silent on the main. 280  
But how, unbidden, shall I dare to steep  
Jove's awful temples in the dew of sleep ?  
Long since too vent'rous, at thy bold command,  
On those eternal lids I laid my hand :  
What time, deserting Ilion's wasted plain, 285  
His conqu'ring son, Alcides, plough'd the main.  
When lo ! the deeps arise, the tempests roar,  
And drive the hero to the Coan shore :  
Great Jove awaking, shook the bleis'd abodes  
With rising wrath, and tumbled Gods on Gods ; 290  
Me chief he sought, and from the realms on high  
Had hurl'd indignant to the nether sky,  
But gentle Night, to whom I fled for aid,  
(The friend of earth and heav'n), her wings display'd ;  
Impower'd the wrath of Gods and men to tame ; 295  
Ev'n Jove rever'd the venerable dame.

Vain are thy fears (the queen of heav'n replies,  
And speaking, rolls her large majestic eyes).  
Think'st thou that Troy has Jove's high favour won,  
Like great Alcides, his all conqu'ring son ? 300  
Hear, and obey the mistress of the skies,  
Nor for the deed expect a vulgar prize ;  
For know, thy lov'd one shall be ever thine,  
The youngest Grace, Pasithae the divine. 304

Swear then (he said) by those tremendous floods  
That roar through hell, and bind th' invoking Gods :  
Let the great parent Earth one hand sustain,  
And stretch the other o'er the sacred Main,  
Call the black Titans, that with Chronos dwell,  
To hear and witness from the depths of hell ; 310

That she, my lov'd one, shall be ever mine,  
The youngest Grace, Pasithae the divine.

The queen assents, and from th' infernal bow'rs,  
Invokes the sable subtartarean pow'rs,  
And those who rule th' inviolable floods,      315  
Whom mortals name the dread Titanian Gods.

Then swift as wind, o'er Lemnos' smoaky isle,  
They wing their way, and Imbrus' sea beat soil ;  
Through air, unseen, involv'd in darkness glide,  
And light on Lectos, on the point of Ide ;      320  
(Mother of savages, whose echoing hills  
Are heard resounding with a hundred rills).  
Fair Ida trembles underneath the God ;  
Hush'd are her mountains, and her forests nod.  
There on a fir, whose spiry branches rise      325  
To join its summit to the neighb'ring skies,  
Dark in embow'ring shade, conceal'd from sight,  
Sat Sleep, in likeness of the bird of night.  
(Chalcis his name by those of heav'nly birth,  
But call'd Cymindis by the race of earth.)      330

To Ida's top successful Juno flies ;  
Great Jove surveys her with desiring eyes :  
The God, whose lightning sets the heav'ns on fire,  
Through all his bosom feels the fierce desire ;  
Fierce as when first by stealth he seiz'd her charms,  
Mix'd with her soul, and melted in her arms.      335  
Fix'd on her eyes he fed his eager look,  
Then press'd her hand, and thus with transport spoke.

Why comes my Goddess from th' æthereal sky,  
And not her steeds and flaming chariot nigh ?      340

Then she—I haste to those remote abodes,  
Where the great parents of the deathless Gods,  
The rev'rend Ocean and gray Tethys, reign,  
On the last limits of the land and main.  
I visit these, to whose indulgent cares      345  
I owe the nursing of my tender years.

For strife, I hear, has made that union cease,  
Which held so long this ancient pair in peace.

The steeds, prepar'd my chariot to convey  
O'er earth and seas, and through th' aereal way, 350  
Wait under Ide : Of thy superior pow'r  
To ask consent, I leave th' Olympian bow'r ;  
Nor seek, unknown to thee, the sacred cells  
Deep under seas, where hoary Ocean dwells.

For that (said Jove) suffice another day ; 355  
But eager love denies the least delay.

Let softer cares the present hour employ,  
And be these moments sacred all to joy.

Ne'er did my soul so strong a passion prove,  
Or for an earthly, or a heav'nly love : 360

Not when I press'd Ixion's matchless dame,  
Whence rose Perithous like the Gods in fame,  
Not when fair Danae felt the shov'r of gold  
Stream into life, whence Perseus brave and bold.

Not thus I burn'd for either Theban dame, 365  
(Bacchus from this, from that Alcides came.)

Not Phœnix' daughter, beautiful and young,  
Whence godlike Rhadamanth and Minos sprung.

Not thus I burn'd for fair Latona's face,  
Nor comelier Ceres' more majestic grace. 370

Not thus ev'n for thyself I felt desire,  
As now my veins receive the pleasing fire.

He spoke ; the Goddess with the charming eyes  
Glow with celestial red, and thus replies.

Is this a scene for love ? On Ida's height 375  
Expos'd to mortal and immortal sight ;  
Our joys profan'd by each familiar eye ;  
The sport of heav'n, and fable of the sky.

How shall I e'er review the bleſſ'd abodes,  
Or mix among the senate of the Gods ? 380  
Shall I not think, that, with disorder'd charms,  
All heav'n beholds me recent from thy arms ?

With skill divine has Vulcan form'd thy bow'r,  
Sacred to love, and to the genial hour ;  
If such thy will, to that recess retire,  
And secret there indulge thy soft desire.

385

She ceas'd and smiling with superior love,  
Thus answer'd mild the cloud compelling Jove.  
Nor God, nor mortal, shall our joys behold,  
Shaded with clouds, and circumfus'd in gold ; 390  
Not ev'n the sun, who darts through heav'n his rays,  
And whose broad eye th' extended earth surveys.

Gazing he spoke, and kindling at the view,  
His eager arms around the Goddess threw.  
Glad earth perceives, and from her bosom pours 395  
Unbidden herbs and voluntary flow'rs :  
Thick new born vi'lets a soft carpet spread,  
And clust'ring Lotos fwell'd the rising bed,  
And sudden hyacinths the turf bestrow,  
And flamy Crocus made the mountain glow. 400  
There golden clouds conceal the heav'nly pair,  
Steep'd in soft joys, and circumfus'd with air ;  
Celestial dews, descending o'er the ground,  
Perfume the mount, and breathe Ambrosia round.  
At length with love and sleep's soft pow'r oppress,  
The panting Thund'rer nods, and sinks to rest. 405

Now to the navy borne on silent wings,  
To Neptune's ear soft Sleep his message brings ;  
Beside him sudden, unperceiv'd he stood,  
And thus with gentle words address'd the God. 410

Now, Neptune ! now th' important hour employ,  
To check a while the haughty hopes of Troy :  
While Jove yet rests, while yet my vapours shed  
The golden vision round his sacred head ;  
For Juno's love, and Somnus' pleasing ties, 415  
Have clos'd those awful and eternal eyes.

Thus having said, the pow'r of slumber flew,  
On human lids to drop the balmy dew.

Book XIV. HOMER's ILIAD. 45

Neptune, with zeal increas'd, renew's his care,  
And tow'ring in the foremost ranks of war,

Indignant thus—Oh once of martial fame ! 420

O Greeks ! if yet ye can deserve the name !

This half-recover'd day shall Troy obtain ?

Shall Hector thunder at your ships again ?

Lo still he vaunts, and threatens the fleet with fires, 425

While stern Achilles in his wrath retires.

One hero's loss too tamely you deplore,

Be still yourselves, and we shall need no more.

Oh yet, if glory any bosom warms,

Brace on your firmest helms, and stand to arms : 430

His strongest spear each valiant Grecian wield,

Each valiant Grecian seize his broadest shield ;

Let to the weak the lighter arms belong,

The pond'rous targe be wielded by the strong.

(Thus arm'd) not Hector shall our presence stay ; 435

Myself, ye Greeks ! myself will lead the way.

The troops assent ; their martial arms they change,

The busy chiefs their banded legions range.

The kings, tho' wounded, and oppress'd with pain,

With helpful hands themselves assist the train. 440

The strong and cumb'rous arms the valiant wield,

The weaker warrior takes a lighter shield.

Till sheath'd in shining brafs, in bright array,

The legions march, and Neptune leads the way :

His brandish'd faulchion flames before their eyes, 445

Like lightning flashing through the frighted skies.

Clad in his might th' earth-shaking pow'r appears ;

Pale mortals tremble, and confess their fears.

Troy's great defender stands alone unaw'd,

Arms his proud host, and dares oppose a God : 450

And lo ! the God, and wondrous man appear :

The sea's stern ruler there, and Hector here.

The roaring main, at her great master's call,

Rose in huge ranks, and form'd a wat'ry wall

Around the ships : seas hanging o'er the shores, 455  
Both armies join : earth thunders, ocean roars.  
Not half so loud the bellowing deeps resound.  
When stormy winds disclose the dark profound ;  
Less loud the winds, that from th' Eolian hall 459  
Roar thro' the woods, and make whole forests fall ;  
Less loud the winds, when flames in torrents pour,  
Catch the dry mountain, and its shades devour.  
With such a rage the meeting hosts are driv'n,  
And such a clamour shakes the sounding heav'n.  
The first bold jav'lin urg'd by Hector's force, 465  
Direct at Ajax' bosom wing'd its course ;  
But there no pass the crossing belts afford,  
(One brac'd his shield, and one sustain'd his sword).  
Then back the disappointed Trojan drew,  
And curs'd the lance that unavailing flew : 470  
But 'scap'd not Ajax ; his tempestuous hand  
A pond'rous stone up heaving from the sand,  
(Where heaps laid loose beneath the warrior's feet,  
Or serv'd to ballast, or to prop the fleet) ;  
Toss'd round and round, the missive marble flings ;  
On the raz'd shield the falling ruin rings, 476  
Full on his breast and throat with force descends :  
Nor deaden'd there its giddy fury spends,  
But whirling on with many a fiery round,  
Smokes in the dust, and ploughs into the ground. 480  
As when the bolt, red-hissing from above,  
Darts on the consecrated plant of Jove,  
The mountain oak in flaming ruin lies,  
Black from the blow, and smokes of sulphur rise ;  
Stiff with amaze the pale beholders stand, 486  
And own the terrors of th' almighty hand !  
So lies great Hector prostrate on the shore ;  
His slacken'd hand deserts the lance it bore ;  
His following shield the fallen chief o'erspread ;  
Beneath his helmet dropp'd his fainting head ; 490

## Book XIV. HOMER'S ILIAD.

47

His load of armour sinking to the ground,  
 Clanks on the field a dead, and hollow sound.  
 Loud shouts of triumph fill the crowded plain ;  
 Greece sees, in hope, Troy's great defender slain :  
 All spring to seize him ; storms of arrows fly ;      495  
 And thicker jav'lins intercept the sky.

In vain an iron tempest hisses round ;  
 He lies protected, and without a wound.

Polydamas, Agenor the divine,

The pious warrior of Anchises' line,      500  
 And each bold leader of the Lycian band,  
 With cov'ring shields (a friendly circle) stand.  
 His mournful followers, with assistant care,  
 The groaning hero to his chariot bear ;  
 His foaming coursers, swifter than the wind,      505  
 Speed to the town, and leave the war behind.

When now they touch'd the mead's enamel'd side,  
 Where gentle Xanthus rolls his easy tide,  
 With watry drops the chief they sprinkle round,  
 Plac'd on the margin of the flow'ry ground.      510  
 Rais'd on his knees, he now ejects the gore ;  
 Now faints anew, low-sinking on the shore ;  
 By fits he breathes, half views the fleeting skies,  
 And seals again, by fits, his swimming eyes.

Soon as the Greeks the chief's retreat beheld,      515  
 With double fury each invades the field.

Oilean Ajax first his jav'lin sped,  
 Pierc'd by whose point the son of Enops bled :  
 (Satnius the brave, whom beauteous Neis bore  
 Amidst her flocks on Satnio's silver shore) ;      520  
 Struck thro' the belly's rim, the warrior lies  
 Supine, and shades eternal veil his eyes.  
 An arduous battle rose around the dead ;  
 By turns the Greeks, by turns the Trojans bled.

Fir'd with revenge, Polydamas drew near,      525  
 And at Prothænor shook the trembling spear ;

The driving jav'lin through his shoul'der thrust,  
He sinks to earth, and grasps the bloody dust.  
Lo thus (the victor cries) we rule the field,  
And thus their arms the race of Panthus wield : 530  
From this unerring hand there flies no dart  
But bathes its point within a Grecian heart.  
Propt on that spear to which thou ow'st thy fall,  
Go, guide thy darksome steps to Pluto's dreary hall !

He said, and sorrow touch'd each Argive breast ; 535  
The soul of Ajax burn'd above the rest.  
As by his side the groaning warrior fell,  
At the fierce foe he launch'd his piercing steel ;  
The foe reclining, shunn'd the flying death :  
But fate, Archelochus, demands thy breath : 540  
Thy lofty birth no succour could impart,  
The wings of death o'ertook thee on the dart,  
Swift to perform heav'n's fatal will it fled,  
Full on the juncture of the neck and head,  
And took the joint, and cut the nerves in twain : 545  
The dropping head first tumbled to the plain.  
So just the stroke, that yet the body stood  
Erect, then roll'd along the sand in blood.

Here, proud Polydamas, here turn thy eyes !  
(The tow ring Ajax loud insulting cries) ; 550  
Say, is this chief extended on the plain,  
A worthy vengeance for Prothœnor slain ?  
Mark well his port ! his figure and his face  
Nor speak him vulgar, nor of vulgar race ;  
Some lines, methinks, may make his lineage known,  
Antenor's brother, or perhaps his son. 556

He spake, and smil'd severe, for well he knew  
The bleeding youth : Troy sadden'd at the view.  
But furious Acamas aveng'd his cause ;  
As Promachus his slaughter'd brother draws, 560  
He pierc'd his heart.—Such fate attends you all,  
Proud Argives ! destin'd by our arms to fall.

Not Troy alone, but haughty Greece shall share  
 The toils, the sorrows, and the wounds of war.  
 Behold your Promachus depriv'd of breath,      565  
 A victim ow'd to my brave brother's death.  
 Not unappeas'd he enters Pluto's gate,  
 Who leaves a brother to revenge his fate.

Heart-piercing anguish struck the Grecian host,  
 But touch'd the breast of bold Peneleus most;      570  
 At the proud boaster he directs his course;  
 The boaster flies, and shuns superior force.  
 But young Ilioneus receiv'd the spear;  
 Ilioneus, his father's only care:

(Phorbas the rich, of all the Trojan train      575  
 Whom Hermes lov'd, and taught the arts of gain).  
 Full in his eye the weapon chanc'd to fall,  
 And from the fibres scoop'd the routed ball,  
 Drove thro' the neck, and hurl'd him to the plain:  
 He lifts his miserable arms in vain!      580  
 Swift his broad faulchion fierce Peneleus spread,  
 And from the spouting shoulders struck his head;  
 To earth at once the head and helmet fly;  
 The lance yet striking through the bleeding eye,  
 The victor seiz'd; and as aloft he shook      585  
 The gory visage, thus insulting spoke.

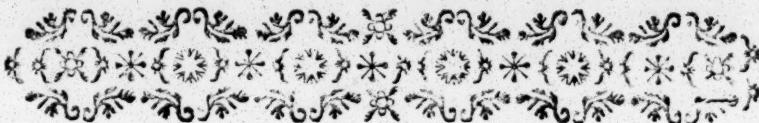
Trojans! your great Ilioneus behold!  
 Haste, to his father let the tale be told:  
 Let his high roofs resound with frantic wo,  
 Such, as the house of Promachus must know;      590  
 Let doleful tidings greet his mother's ear,  
 Such, as to Promachus' sad spouse we bear;  
 When we victorious shall to Greece return,  
 And the pale matron in our triumphs mourn.

Dreadful he spoke, then toss'd the head on high;  
 The Trojans hear, they tremble, and they fly:      596  
 Aghast they gaze around the fleet and wall,  
 And dread the ruin that impends on all.

Daughters of Jove! that on Olympus shine,  
Ye all-beholding, all-recording Nine! 600  
O say, when Neptune made proud Ilion yield,  
What chief, what hero first embru'd the field!  
Of all the Grecians what immortal name,  
And whose bleſſ'd trophies will ye raiſe to fame?

Thou first, great Ajax! on th' ensanguin'd plain  
Laid Hyrtius, leader of the Myſian train. 606  
Phalces and Mermer, Nestor's sons o'erthrew;  
Bold Merion, Morys and Hippotion flew.  
Strong Periphætes and Prothoон bled,  
By Teucer's arrows mingled with the dead. 610  
Pierc'd in the flank by Menelaus' ſteel,  
His people's paſtor, Hyperenor fell;  
Eternal darkness wrapt the warrior round,  
And the fierce ſoul came rushing thro' the wound.  
But ſtretch'd in heaps before Oileus' ſon, 615  
Fall mighty numbers, mighty numbers run;  
Ajax the leſs, of all the Grecian race  
Skil'd in purſuit, and swiftest in the chace.





T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K      XV.

T H E   A R G U M E N T.

The fifth battle, at the ships, and the acts of Ajax.

*Jupiter awaking, sees the Trojans repulsed from the trenches, Hector in a swoon, and Neptune at the head of the Greeks: he is highly incensed at the artifice of Juno, who appeases him by her submissions; she is then sent to Iris and Apollo. Juno repairing to the assembly of the Gods, attempts with extraordinary address to incense them against Jupiter; in particular she touches Mars with a violent resentment: he is ready to take arms, but is prevented by Minerva. Iris and Apollo obey the orders of Jupiter; Iris commands Neptune to leave the battle, to which, after much reluctance and passion, he consents. Apollo re-inspires Hector with vigour, brings him back to the battle, marches before him with his ægis, and turns the fortune of the fight. He breaks down great part of the Grecian wall: the Trojans rush in, and attempt to fire the first line of the fleet,*

*but are, as yet, repelled by the greater Ajax with a prodigious slaughter.*

**N**OW in swift flight they pass the trench profound,  
And many a chief lay gasping on the ground :  
Then stopp'd and panted, where the chariots lie ;  
Fear on their cheek, and horror on their eye.  
Meanwhile awaken'd from his dream of love, 5  
On Ida's summit sat imperial Jove :  
Round the wide fields he cast a careful view,  
There saw the Trojans fly, the Greeks pursue ;  
These proud in arms, those scatter'd o'er the plain ;  
And, 'midst the war, the monarch of the main. 10  
Not far, great Hector on the dust he spies,  
(His sad associates round with weeping eyes),  
Ejecting blood, and panting yet for breath,  
His senses wand'ring to the verge of death.  
The God beheld him with a pitying look, 15  
And thus, incens'd, to fraudful Juno spoke.  
O thou, still adverse to th' eternal will,  
For ever studious in promoting ill !  
Thy arts have made the godlike Hector yield,  
And driv'n his conqu'ring squadrons from the field. 20  
Canst thou, unhappy in thy wiles ! withstand  
Our pow'r immense, and brave th' almighty hand ?  
Hast thou forgot, when bound and fix'd on high,  
From the vast concave of the spangled sky,  
I hung thee trembling, in a golden chain ; 25  
And all the raging Gods oppos'd in vain ?  
Headlong I hurl'd them from th' Olympian hall,  
Stunn'd in the whirl, and breathless with the fall.  
For godlike Hercules these deeds were done,  
Nor seem'd the vengeance worthy such a son ; 30  
When, by thy wiles induc'd, fierce Boreas tost  
The shipwreck'd hero on the Coan coast :

Book XV. H O M E R's I L I A D. 53

Him through a thousand forms of death I bore,  
And sent to Argos, and his native shore.  
Hear this, remember, and our fury dread, 35  
Nor pull th' unwilling vengeance on thy head ;  
Lest arts and blandishments successless prove,  
Thy soft deceits, and well dissembled love.

The Thund'rer spoke : imperial Juno mourn'd,  
And trembling, these submissive words return'd. 40

By ev'ry oath that pow'r's immortal ties,  
The foodful earth, and all infolding skies,  
By thy black waves, tremendous Styx ! that flow  
Through the drear realms of gliding ghosts below :  
By the dread honours of thy sacred head, 45  
And that unbroken vow, our virgin bed !  
Not by my arts the ruler of the main  
Steeps Troy in blood, and ranges round the plain :  
By his own ardour, his own pity tway'd  
To help his Greeks ; he fought, and disobey'd : 50  
Else had thy Juno better counsels giv'n,  
And taught submission to the fire of heav'n.

Think'st thou with me ? fair empress of the skies !  
(Th' immortal Father with a smile replies !)

Then soon the haughty sea-god shall obey, 55  
Nor dare to act, but when we point the way.  
If truth inspires thy tongue, proclaim our will  
To yon bright synod on th' Olympian hill ;  
Our high decree let various Iris know,  
And call the God that bears the silver bow. 60  
Let her descend, and from th' embattled plain  
Command the sea-god to his wat'ry reign ;  
While Phœbus hasten, great Hector to prepare  
To rise afresh and once more wake the war,  
His lab'ring bosom re-inspires with breath, 65  
And calls his senses from the verge of death.  
Greece chas'd by Troy ev'n to Achilles' fleet,  
Shall fall by thousands at the hero's feet.

He, not touch'd with pity, to the plain  
Shall send Patroclus, but shall send in vain. 70  
What youth he slaughterers under Ilion's walls?  
Ev'n my lov'd son, divine Sarpedon falls!  
Vanquish'd at last by Hector's lance he lies.  
Then, nor till then, shall great Achilles rise:  
And lo! that instant godlike Hector dies. 75 }  
From that great hour the war's whole fortune turns,  
Pallas assists, and lofty Ilion burns.  
Not till that day shall Jove relax his rage,  
Nor one of all the heav'ly host engage  
In aid of Greece. The promise of a God 80  
I gave, and seal'd it with th' almighty nod,  
Achilles' glory to the stars to raise;  
Such was our word, and fate the word obeys.

The trembling queen (th' almighty order giv'n)  
Swift from th' Idæan summit shot to heav'n. 85  
As some wayfaring man, who wanders o'er,  
In thought, a length of lands he trod before,  
Sends forth his active mind from place to place,  
Joins hill to dale, and measures space with space:  
So swift flew Juno to the blest'd abodes, 90  
If thought of man can match the speed of Gods.  
There sat the pow'rs in awful synod plac'd;  
They bow'd, and made obeisance as she pass'd,  
Thro' all the brazen dome: with goblets crown'd  
They hail her queen; and nectar streams around. 95  
Fair Themis first presents the golden bowl,  
And anxious asks what cares disturb her soul?

To whom the white-arm'd Goddess thus replies.  
Enough thou know'st the tyrant of the skies,  
Severely bent his purpose to fulfil, 100  
Unmov'd his mind, and unrestrain'd his will.  
Go thou, the feasts of heav'n attend thy call;  
Bid the crown'd nectar circle round the hall;

Book XV. HOMER's I L I A D. 55

But Jove shall thunder through th' ethereal dome,  
Such stern decrees, such threat'ned woes to come, 105  
As soon shall freeze mankind with dire surprize,  
And damp th' eternal banquets of the skies.

The Goddess said, and fullen took her place;  
Blank horror sadden'd each celestial face.  
To see the gath'ring grudge in ev'ry breast, 110  
Smiles on her lip a spleenful joy exprest;  
While on her wrinkled front, and eye-brow bent,  
Sat Redfast care, and louring discontent.  
Thus she proceeds—Attend, ye pow'rs above!  
But know, 'tis madness to contest with Jove: 115  
Supreme he sits; and sees, in pride of sway,  
Your vassal Godheads grudgingly obey;  
Fierce in the majesty of pow'r, controls;  
Shakes all the thrones of heav'n, and bends the poles.  
Submiss, immortals! all he wills, obey; 120  
And thou, great Mars, begin and shew the way.  
Behold Ascalaphus! behold him die,  
But dare not murmur, dare not vent a sigh;  
Thy own lov'd boasted offspring lies o'erthrown,  
If that lov'd boasted offspring be thy own. 125

Stern Mars, with anguish for his slaughter'd son,  
Smote his rebelling breast, and fierce begun.  
Thus, then, Immortals! thus shall Mars obey;  
Forgive me, Gods, and yield my vengeance way:  
Descending first to yon forbidden plain, 130  
The God of battles dares avenge the slain;  
Dares, though the thunder bursting o'er my head  
Should hurl me blazing on those heaps of dead.

With that, he gives command to Fear and Flight  
To join his rapid coursers for the fight: 135  
Then grim in arms, with hasty vengeance flies;  
Arms, that reflect a radiance thro' the skies.  
And now had Jove, by bold rebellion driv'n,  
Discharg'd his wrath on half the host of heav'n;

But Pallas springing thro' the bright abode, 140  
Starts from her azure throne to calm the God.  
Struck for th' immortal race with timely fear,  
From frantic Mars she snatch'd the shield and spear;  
Then the huge helmet lifting from his head,  
Thus to th' impetuous homicide she said. 145

By what wild passion, furious! art thou lost?  
Striv'st thou with Jove? thou art already lost.  
Shall not the Thund'rer's dread command restrain,  
And was imperial Juno heard in vain?  
Back to the skies wouldest thou with shame be driv'n,  
And in thy guilt involve the host of heav'n? 151  
Ilion and Greece no more should Jove engage;  
The skies would yield an ampler scene of rage,  
Guilty and guiltless find an equal fate,  
And one vast ruinwhelm th' Olympian state. 155  
Cease then thy offspring's death unjust to call;  
Heroes as great have dy'd, and yet shall fall.  
Why should heav'n's law with foolish man comply,  
Exempted from the race ordain'd to die?

This menace fix'd the warrior to his throne; 160  
Sullen he sat, and curb'd the rising groan.  
Then Juno call'd (Jove's orders to obey)  
The winged Iris, and the God of day.  
Go wait the Thund'rer's will, (Saturnia cry'd),  
On yon tall summit of the fount full Ide: 165  
There in the father's awful presence stand,  
Receive, and execute his dread command.

She said, and sat: the God that gilds the day,  
And various Iris, wing their airy way.  
Swift as the wind, to Ida's hills they came, 170  
(Fair nurse of fountains, and of savage game).  
There sat th' Eternal; he whose nod controls  
The trembling world, and shakes the steady poles.  
Veil'd in a mist of fragrance him they found,  
With clouds of gold and purple circl'd round. 175

Well pleas'd the Thund'r'er saw their earnest care,  
And prompt obedience to the queen of air;  
Then (while a smile serenes his awful brow.  
Commands the Goddess of the show'ry bow)

Iris ! descend, and what we here ordain      180  
Report to yon mad tyrant of the main.

Bid him from fight to his own deeps repair,  
Or breathe from slaughter in the fields of air.

If he refuse, then let him timely weigh  
Our elder birthright, and superior sway.      185

How shall his rashness stand the dire alarms,

If heav'n's omnipotence descend in arms ?

Strives he with me, by whom his pow'r was giv'n,

And is there equal to the Lord of heav'n ?

Th'Almighty spoke ; the Goddess wing'd her flight  
To sacred Ilion from th' Idæan height.      191

Swift as the rattling hail or fleecy snows

Drive thro' the skies, when Boreas fiercely blows ;

So from the clouds descending Iris falls ;

And to blue Neptune thus the Goddess calls.      195

Attend the mandate of the fire above,

In me behold the messenger of Jove :

He bids thee from forbidden wars repair

To thy own deeps, or to the fields of air.

This if refus'd, he bids thee timely weigh      200

His elder birthright, and superior sway.

How shall thy rashness stand the dire alarms,

If heav'n's omnipotence descend in arms ?

Striv'st thou with him by whom all pow'r is giv'n ?

And art thou equal to the Lord of heav'n ?      205

What means the haughty sov'reign of the skies ?

(The king of ocean thus, incens'd, replies).

Rule as he will his portion'd realms on high ;

No vassal God, nor of his train am I.

Three brother deities from Saturn came,

And ancient Rhea, earth's immortal dame :      210

Assign'd by lot, our triple rule we know ;  
 Infernal Pluto sways the shades below ;  
 O'er the wide clouds, and o'er the starry plain,  
 Æthereal Jove extends his high domain :      215  
 My court beneath the hoary wave I keep,  
 And hush the roarings of the sacred deep :  
 Olympus, and this earth, in common lie ;  
 What claim has here the tyrant of the sky ?  
 Far in the distant clouds let him control,      220  
 And awe the younger brothers of the pole ;  
 There to his children his commands be giv'n,  
 The trembling, servile, second race of heav'n.

And must I then, (said she,) O fire of floods !  
 Bear this fierce answer to the king of Gods ?      225  
 Correct it yet, and change thy rash intent ;  
 A noble mind disdains not to repent.  
 To elder brothers guardian fiends are giv'n,  
 To scourge the wretch insulting them and heav'n.

Great is the profit (thus the God rejoin'd)      230  
 When ministers are bless'd with prudent mind :  
 Warn'd by thy words, to pow'rful Jove I yield,  
 And quit, though angry, the contended field.  
 Not but his threats with justice I disclaim,  
 The same our honours, and our birth the same.      235  
 If yet, forgetful of his promise giv'n  
 To Hermes, Pallas, and the queen of heav'n ;  
 To favour Ilion, that perfidious place,  
 He breaks his faith with half th' æthereal race ;  
 Give him to know, unless the Grecian train      240  
 Lay yon proud structures level with the plain,  
 Howe'er th' offence by other Gods be past,  
 The wrath of Neptune shall for ever last.

Thus speaking, furious from the field he strode,  
 And plung'd into the bosom of the flood.      245  
 The Lord of thunders from his lofty height  
 Beheld, and thus bespoke the source of light.

Behold! the God whose liquid arms are hurl'd  
 Around the globe, whose earthquakes rock the world,  
 Defeats at length his rebel-war to wage, 250  
 Seeks his own seas, and trembles at our rage ;  
 Else had my wrath, heav'n's thrones all shaking round,  
 Burn'd to the bottom of the seas profound ;  
 And all the Gods that round old Saturn dwell,  
 Had heard the thunders to the deeps of hell. 255.  
 Well was the crime, and well the vengeance spar'd ;  
 Ev'n pow'r immense had found such battle hard.  
 Go thou, my son, the trembling Greeks alarm,  
 Shake my broad ægis on thy active arm,  
 Be godlike He~~c~~<sup>r</sup> thy peculiar care, 260  
 Swell his bold heart, and urge his strength to war :  
 Let Ilion conquer, till th' Achaian train  
 Fly to their ships and Helle~~p~~<sup>on</sup>t again : [said ;  
 Then Greece shall breathe from toils— The Godhead  
 His will divine the son of Jove obey'd. 265  
 Not half so swift the sailing falcon flies,  
 That drives a turtle through the liquid skies ;  
 As Phœbus shooting from th' Idæan brow.  
 Glides down the mountain to the plain below.  
 There He~~c~~<sup>r</sup> seated by the stream he sees, 270  
 His sense returning with the coming breeze ;  
 Again his pulses beat, his spirits rise ;  
 Again his lov'd companions meet his eyes ;  
 Jove thinking of his pains, they pass'd away.  
 To whom the God who gives the golden day. 275  
 Why fits great He~~c~~<sup>r</sup> from the field so far ?  
 What grief, what wound, withhold thee from the war ?  
 The fainting hero, as the vision bright  
 Stood shining o'er him, half unseal'd his sight :  
 What bless'd immortal with commanding breath, 280  
 Thus wakens He~~c~~<sup>r</sup> from the sleep of death ?  
 Has fame not told, how, while my trusty sword  
 Bath'd Greece in slaughter, and her battle gor'd,

## 60 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XV.

The mighty Ajax with a deadly blow  
Had almost sunk me to the shades below? 285

Ev'n yet, methinks, the gliding ghosts I spy,  
And hell's black horrors swim before my eye.

To him Apollo. Be no more dismay'd ;  
See, and be strong ! the Thund'rer sends thee aid.  
Behold ! thy Phœbus shall his arms employ, 290  
Phœbus, propitious still to thee, and Troy.  
Inspire thy warriors then with manly force,  
And to the ships impel thy rapid horse :  
Ev'n I will make thy fiery coursers way,  
And drive the Grecians headlong to the sea. 295

Thus to bold Hector spoke the son of Jove,  
And breath'd immortal ardour from above.  
As when the pamper'd steed, with reins unbound,  
Breaks from his stall, and pours along the ground ;  
With ample strokes he rushes to the flood, 300  
To bathe his fides, and cool his fiery blood ;  
His head now freed, he tosses to the skies ;  
His mane dishevel'd o'er his shoulders flies :  
He snuffs the females in the well-known plain,  
And springs, exulting, to his fields again : 305  
Urg'd by the voice divine, thus Hector flew,  
Full of the God ; and all his hosts pursue.

As when the force of men and dogs combin'd  
Invade the mountain-goat, or branching hind ;  
Far from the hunter's rage secure they lie.  
Close in the rock, (not fated yet to die). 310  
When lo ! a lion shoots across the way !  
They fly ; at once the chasers and the prey.  
So Greece, that late in conqu'ring troops pursu'd,  
And mark'd their progress thro' the ranks in blood,  
Soon as they see the furious chief appear, 315  
Forget to vanquish, and consent to fear.

Thoas with grief observ'd his dreadful course,  
Thoas, the bravest of th'Etolian force ;

Book XV. HOMER's ILIAD. 65

Skill'd to direct the jav'lin's distant flight, 320

And bold to combat in the standing fight;

No more in counsels fam'd for solid sense,

Than winning words and heav'nly eloquence.

Gods! what portent (he cry'd) these eyes invades?

Lo! Hector rises from the Stygian shades! 325

We saw him, late, by thund'ring Ajax kill'd:

What God restores him to the frighted field;

And not content that half of Greece lie slain,

Pours new destruction on her sons again?

He comes not, Jove! without thy pow'rful will; 330

Lo! still he lives, pursues, and conquers still!

Yet hear my counsel, and his worst withstand,

The Greeks main body to the fleet command;

But let the few whom brisker spirits warm,

Stand the first onset, and provoke the storm. 335

Thus point your arms; and when such foes appear,

Fierce as he is, let Hector learn to fear.

The warrior spoke, the list'ning Greeks obey,

Thick'ning their ranks, and form a deep array.

Each Ajax, Teucer, Merion, gave command, 340

The valiant leader of the Cretan band,

And Mars-like Meges: these the chiefs excite,

Approach the foe, and meet the coming fight.

Behind, unnumber'd multitudes attend,

To flank the navy, and the shores defend. 345

Full on the front the pressing Trojans bear,

And Hector first came tow'ring to the war.

Phœbus himself the rushing battle led;

A veil of clouds involv'd his radiant head:

High held before him, Jove's enormous shield 350

Portentous shone, and shaded all the field;

Vulcan to Jove th' immortal gift consign'd,

To scatter hosts, and terrify mankind.

The Greeks expect the shock; the clamours rise

From diff'rent parts, and mingle in the skies. 355

Dire was the hiss of darts, by heroes flung,  
 And arrows leaping from the bow-string sung ;  
 These drink the life of gen'rous warriors slain ;  
 Those guiltless fall, and thirst for blood in vain.  
 As long as Phœbus bore unmov'd the shield, 360  
 Sat doubtful conquest hov'ring o'er the field ;  
 But when aloft he shakes it in the skies,  
 Shouts in their ears, and lightens in their eyes,  
 Deep horror seizes ev'ry Grecian breast,  
 Their force is humbled, and their fear confess, 365  
 So flies a herd of oxen, scatter'd wide,  
 No swain to guard them, and no day to guide,  
 When two fell lions from the mountain come,  
 And spread the carnage through the shady gloom.  
 Impending Phœbus pours around them fear, 370  
 And Troy and Hector thunder in the rear.  
 Heaps fall on heaps : the slaughter Hector leads ;  
 First great Arcefilas, then Stichius bleeds ;  
 One to the bold Boeotians ever dear,  
 And one Menestheus' friend, and fam'd compeer. 375  
 Medon and Jasus, Æneas sped ;  
 This sprung from Phelus, and th' Athenians led ;  
 But hapless Medon from Oileus came :  
 Him Ajax honour'd with a brother's name,  
 Though born of lawless love : from home expell'd, 380  
 A banish'd man, in Phylace he dwell'd,  
 Press'd by the vengeance of an angry wife ;  
 Troy ends, at last, his labours and his life.  
 Mecystes next, Polydamas o'erthrew ;  
 And thee, brave Clonius ! great Agenor flew. 385  
 By Paris, Deiochus inglorious dies,  
 Pierc'd through the shoulder as he basely flies.  
 Polites' arm laid Echius on the plain ;  
 Stretch'd on one heap, the victors spoil the slain.  
 The Greeks dismay'd, confus'd, disperse or fall, 390  
 Some seek the trench, some sculk behind the wall.

While these fly trembling, others pant for breath,  
And o'er the slaughter stalks gigantic Death.  
On rush'd bold Hector, gloomy as the night ;  
Forbids to plunder, animates the fight, 395  
Points to the fleet : for by the Gods, who flies,  
Who dares but linger, by this hand he dies ;  
No weeping sister his cold eye shall close,  
No friendly hand his funeral pyre compose.  
Who stops to plunder at this signal hour, 400  
The birds shall tear him, and the dogs devour.

Furious he said ; the smarting scourge resounds ;  
The coursers fly ; the smoaking chariot bounds :  
The hosts rush on ; loud clamours shake the shore ;  
The horses thunder, earth and ocean roar ! 405  
Apollo, planted at the trench's bound,  
Push'd at the bank : down sunk th' enormous mound :  
Roll'd in the ditch the heapy ruin lay ;  
A sudden road ! a long and ample way.  
O'er the dread fosse (a late-impervious space) 410  
Now steeds, and men, and cars, tumultuous pass.  
The wond'ring crouds the downward level trod :  
Before them flam'd the shield, and march'd the God.  
Then with his hand he shook the mighty wall ;  
And lo ! the turrets nod, the bulwarks fall. 415  
Easy, as when ashore an infant stands,  
And draws imagin'd houses in the sands ;  
The sportive wanton, pleas'd with some new play,  
Sweeps the slight works and fashion'd domes away.  
Thus vanish'd, at thy touch, the tow'rs and walls ; 420  
The toil of thousands in a moment falls.

The Grecians gaze around with wild despair,  
Confus'd, and weary all the pow'rs with pray'r ;  
Exhort their men, with praises, threats, commands ;  
And urge the Gods, with voices, eyes, and hands. 425  
Experienc'd Nestor chief obtests the skies,  
And weeps his country with a father's eyes.

O Jove ! if ever, on his native shore,  
One Greek enrich'd thy shrine with offer'd gore ;  
If e'er, in hope our country to behold, 430  
We paid the fattest firstlings of the fold ;  
If e'er thou sign'st our wishes with thy nod,  
Perform the promise of a gracious God !  
This day, preserve our navies from the flame,  
And save the relics of the Grecian name. 435

Thus pray'd the sage : th' Eternal gave consent,  
And peals of thunder shook the firmament.  
Presumptuous Troy mistook th' accepting sign,  
And catch'd new fury at the voice divine.  
As, when black tempests mix the seas and skies, 440  
The roaring deeps in wat'ry mountains rise,  
Above the sides of some tall ship ascend,  
Its womb they deluge, and its ribs they rend :  
Thus loudly roaring, and o'erpow'ring all,  
Mount the thick Trojans up the Grecian wall ; 445  
Legions on legions from each side arise ;  
Thick sound the keels ; the storm of arrows flies.  
Fierce on the ships above, the cars below,  
These wield the mace, and those the jav'lin throw.

While thus the thunder of the battle rag'd 450  
And lab'ring armies round the works engag'd ;  
Still in the tent Patroclus sat, to tend  
The good Eurypylus, his wounded friend.  
He sprinkles healing balms, to anguish kind,  
And adds discourse, the med'cine of the mind. 455  
But when he saw, ascending up the fleet,  
Victorious Troy ; then, starting from his seat,  
With bitter groans his sorrows he exprest,  
He wrings his hands, he beats his manly breast.  
Though yet thy state require redress, (he cries), 460  
Depart I must : what horrors strike my eyes ?  
Charg'd with Achilles' high commands I go,  
A mournful witness of this scene of wo :

I haste to urge him, by his country's care,  
To rise in arms, and shine again in war. 465  
Perhaps some fav'ring God his soul may bend ;  
The voice is pow'rful of a faithful friend.

He spoke ; and speaking, swifter than the wind  
Sprung from the tent, and left the war behind.  
Th' embody'd Greeks the fierce attack sustain, 470  
But strive, though num'rous, to repulse in vain.  
Nor could the Trojans, through that firm array,  
Force to the fleet and tents th' impervious way  
As when a shipwright, with Palladian art,  
Smoothes the rough wood, and levels ev'ry part ; 475  
With equal hand he guides his whole design,  
By the just rule, and the directing line :  
The martial leaders, with like skill and care,  
Preserv'd their line, and equal kept the war.  
Brave deeds of arms through all the ranks were try'd,  
And ev'ry ship sustain'd an equal tide. 481  
At one proud bark, high-tow'ring o'er the fleet  
Ajax the great, and godlike Hector meet,  
For one bright prize the matchless chiefs contend ;  
Nor this the ships can fire, nor that defend ; 485  
One kept the shore, and one the vessel trod ;  
That fix'd as fate, this acted by a God.  
The son of Clytius in his daring hand,  
The deck approaching, shakes a flaming brand ;  
But pierc'd by Telamon's huge lance expires ; 490  
Thund'ring he falls, and drops th' extinguish'd fires.  
Great Hector view'd him with a sad survey,  
As stretch'd in dust before the stern he lay.  
Oh ! all of Trojan, all of Lycian race !  
Stand to your arms, maintain this arduous space : 495  
Lo ! where the son of royal Clytius lies ;  
Ah save his arms, secure his obsequies !  
This said, his eager jav'lin fought the foe :  
But Ajax shunn'd the meditated blow.

Not vainly yet the forceful lance was thrown ; 500  
It stretch'd in dust unhappy Lycophron :  
An exile long, sustain'd at Ajax' board,  
A faithful servant to a foreign lord ;  
In peace, in war, for ever at his side,  
Near his lov'd master, as he liv'd, he dy'd. 505  
From the high poop he tumbles on the sand,  
And lies a lifeless load, along the land.  
With anguish Ajax views the piercing fight,  
And thus inflames his brother to the fight.

Teucer, behold ! extended on the shore 510  
Our friend, our lov'd companion ! now no more !  
Dear as a parent, with a parent's care  
To fight our wars, he left his native air.  
This death deplo'red to Hector's rage we owe ;  
Revenge, revenge it on the cruel foe. 515  
Where are those darts on which the fates attend,  
And where the bow which Phœbus taught to bend ?

Impatient Teucer, hast'ning to his aid,  
Before the chief his ample bow display'd ;  
The well stor'd quiver on his shoulders hung : 520  
Then hiss'd his arrow, and the bow-string fung.  
Clytus, Pysenor's son, renown'd in fame,  
(To thee, Polydamas ! an honour'd name),  
Drove through the thickest of th' embattled plains  
The startling steeds, and shook his eager reins. 525  
As all on glory ran his ardent mind,  
The pointed death arrests him from behind :  
Through his fair neck the thrilling arrow flies ;  
In youth's first bloom reluctantly he dies.  
Hurl'd from the lofty seat, at distance far, 530  
The headlong coursers spurn his empty car ;  
Till sad Polydamas the steeds restrain'd,  
And gave, Astynous, to thy careful hand ;  
Then, fir'd to vengeance, rush'd amidst the foe,  
Rage edg'd his sword, and strengthen'd every blow.

Once more bold Teucer, in his country's cause, 536  
At Hector's breast a chosen arrow draws ;  
And had the weapon found the destin'd way,  
Thy fall, great Trojan ! had renown'd that day.

Bat Hector was not doom'd to perish then : 540  
Th' all wise disposer of the fates of men,  
Imperial Jove, his present death withstands ;  
Nor was such glory due to Teucer's hands.

At its full stretch as the tough string he drew,  
Struck by an arm unseen, it burst in two ; 545  
Down dropt the bow : the shaft with brazen head  
Fell innocent, and on the dust lay dead.

Th' astonish'd archer to great Ajax cries ;  
Some God prevents our destin'd enterprise :  
Some God, propitious to the Trojan foe, 550  
Has, from my arm unfailing, struck the bow,  
And broke the nerve my hands had twin'd with art,  
Strong to impel the flight of many a dart.

Since heav'n commands it, (Ajax made reply),  
Dismiss the bow, and lay thy arrows by ; 555  
Thy arms no less suffice thy lance to wield,  
And quit the quiver for the pond'rous shield.  
In the first ranks indulge thy thirst of fame,  
(Thy brave example shall the rest inflame.)  
Fierce as they are, by long successes vain ; 560  
To force our fleet, or ev'n a ship to gain,  
Asks toil, and sweat, and blood : their utmost might  
Shall find its match—No more : 'tis ours to fight.

Then Teucer laid his faithless bow aside ;  
The fourfold buckler o'er his shoulder ty'd ; 565  
On his brave head a crested helm he plac'd,  
With nodding horse-hair formidably grac'd ;  
A dart, whose point with brass resplendent shines,  
The warrior wields ; and his great brother joins.

This Hector saw, and thus express'd his joy. 570  
Ye troops of Lycia, Dardanus, and Troy !

## 68 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XV.

Be mindful of yourselves, your ancient fame,  
And spread your glory with the navy's flame.  
Jove is with us; I saw his hand, but now,  
From the proud archer strike his vaunted bow. 575  
Indulgent Jove! how plain thy favours shine,  
When happy nations bear the marks divine!  
How easy then, to see the sinking state  
Of realms accus'd, deserted, reprobate!  
Such is the fate of Greece, and such is ours: 580  
Behold, ye warriors, and exert your pow'rs.  
Death is the worst; a fate which all must try;  
And, for our country, 'tis a bless to die.  
The gallant man, though slain in fight he be,  
Yet leaves his nation safe, his children free; 585  
Entails a debt on all the grateful state;  
His own brave friends shall glory in his fate;  
His wife live honour'd, all his race succeed;  
And late posterity enjoy the deed!

This rous'd the soul in ev'ry Trojan breast: 590  
The godlike Ajax next his Greeks addreft.  
How long, ye warriors of the Argive race,  
(To gen'rous Argos what a dire disgrace!)  
How long on these curs'd confines will ye lie,  
Yet undetermin'd, or to live, or die! 595  
What hopes remain, what methods to retire,  
If once your vessels catch the Trojan fire?  
Mark how the flames approach, how near they fall,  
How Hector calls, and Troy obeys his call!  
Not to the dance that dreadful voice invites, 600  
It calls to death, and all the rage of fights.  
'Tis now no time for wisdom or debates;  
To your own hands are trusted all your fates;  
And better far in one decisive strife,  
One day should end our labour, or our life; 605  
Than keep this hard got-inch of barren sands,  
Still press'd, and press'd by such inglorious hands.

Book XV.<sup>1</sup> HOMER's ILIAD. 69

The lift'ning Grecians feel their leader's flame,  
And ev'ry kindling bosom pants for fame.  
Then mutual slaughterers spread on either side; 610  
By Hector here the Phocian Schedius dy'd;  
There pierc'd by Ajax, sunk Laodamas,  
Chief of the foot, of old Antenor's race.  
Polydamas laid Otus on the sand,  
The fierce commander of th' Epeian band. 615  
His lance bold Meges at the victor threw;  
The victor stooping, from the death withdrew;  
(That valu'd life, O Phœbus! was thy care);  
But Crœsmus' bosom took the flying spear:  
His corpse fell bleeding on the flipp'ry shore; 620  
His radiant arms triumphant Meges bore.  
Dolops, the son of Lampus, rushes on,  
Sprung from the race of old Laomedon,  
And fam'd for prowess in a well fought field;  
He pierc'd the centre of his sounding shield: 625  
But Meges, Phyleus' ample breast-plate wore,  
(Well known in fight on Selles' winding shore);  
For king Euphetes gave the golden mail,  
Compact, and firm with many a jointed scale),  
Which oft, in cities storm'd, and battles won, 630  
Had sav'd the father, and now saves the son.  
Full at the Trojan's head he urg'd his lance,  
Where the high plumes above the helmet dance,  
New ting'd with Tyrian dye: in dust below  
Shorn from the crest, the purple honours glow. 635  
Meantime their fight the Spartan king survey'd,  
And stood by Meges' side, a sudden aid,  
Through Dolops' shoulder urg'd his forceful dart,  
Which held its passage through the panting heart,  
And issu'd at his breast. With thundring sound 640  
The warrior falls, extended on the ground.  
In rush the conqu'ring Greeks to spoil the slain;  
But Hector's voice excites his kindled train;

## 70 HOMER's ILIAD. Book XV.

The hero most, from Hicetaon sprung,  
Fierce Melanippus, gallant, brave, and young. 645  
He (ere to Troy the Grecians crost'd the main)  
Fed his large oxen on Percote's plain ;  
But when oppress'd, his country claim'd his care,  
Return'd to Ilion, and excell'd in war ;  
For this, in Priam's court, he held his place, 650  
Belov'd no less than Priam's royal race.  
Him Hector singled, as his troops he led,  
And thus inflam'd him, pointing to the dead.

Lo Melanippus ! lo where Dolops lies ;  
And is it thus our royal kinsman dies ? 655  
O'ermatch'd he falls; to two at once a prey,  
And lo ! they bear the bloody arms away !  
Come on—a distant war no longer wage,  
But hand to hand thy country's foes engage :  
Till Greece at once, and all her glory end ; 660  
Or Ilion from her tow'ry height descend,  
Heav'd from the lowest stone ; and bury all  
In one sad sepulchre, one common fall.

Hector (this said) rush'd forward on the foes :  
With equal ardour Melanippus glows : 665  
Then Ajax thus—Oh Greeks ! respect your fame,  
Respect yourselves, and learn an honest shame :  
Let mutual rev'rence mutual warmth inspire,  
And catch from breast to breast the noble fire.  
On valour's side the odds of combat lie, 670  
The brave live glorious, or lamented die ;  
The wretch that trembles in the field of fame,  
Meets death, and worse than death, eternal shame.

His gen'rous sense, he not in vain imparts ;  
It funk, and rooted in the Grecian hearts, 675  
They join, they throng, they thicken at his call,  
And flank the navy with a brazen wall ;  
Shields touching shields, in order blaze above,  
And stop the Trojans, though impell'd by Jove.

- Book XV. HOMER's ILIAD. 71  
The fiery Spartan first, with loud applause,  
Warms the bold son of Nestor in his cause.  
Is there (he said) in arms a youth like you,  
So strong to fight, so active to pursue?  
Why stand you distant, nor attempt a deed?  
Lift the bold lance, and make some Trojan bleed. 685
- He said; and backward to the lines retir'd;  
Forth rush'd the youth, with martial fury fir'd,  
Beyond the foremost ranks; his lance he threw,  
And round the black battalions cast his view.  
The troops of Troy recede with sudden fear, 690  
While the swift jav'lin hiss'd along in air.  
Advancing Melanippus met the dart  
With his bold breast, and felt it in his heart:  
Thundring he falls; his falling arms resound,  
And his broad buckler rings against the ground. 695  
The victor leaps upon his prostrate prize;  
Thus on a roe the well-breath'd beagle flies,  
And rends his side, fresh-bleeding with the dart  
The distant hunter sent into his heart.
- Observing Hector to the rescue flew; 700  
Bold as he was, Antilochus withdrew.  
So when a savage, ranging o'er the plain,  
Has torn the shepherd's dog, or shepherd swain;  
While conscious of the deed, he glares around,  
And hears the gath'ring multitude resound, 705  
Timely he flies the yet-untasted food,  
And gains the friendly shelter of the wood.  
So fears the youth; all Troy with shouts pursue,  
While stones and darts in mingled tempest flew;  
But enter'd in the Grecian ranks, he turns 710  
His manly breast, and with new fury burns.
- Now on the fleet the tides of Trojans drove,  
Fierce to fulfil the stern decrees of Jove:  
The fire of Gods, confirming Thetis' pray'r,  
The Grecian ardour quench'd in deep despair: 715

But lifts to glory Troy's prevailing bands,  
Swells all their hearts, and strengthens all their hands.  
On Ida's top he waits with longing eyes,  
To view the navy blazing to the skies ;  
Then, nor till then, the scale of war shall turn, 720  
**The Trojans fly, and conquer'd Ilion burn.**  
These fates revolv'd in his almighty mind,  
He raises Hector to the work design'd,  
Bids him with more than mortal fury glow,  
And drives him, like a lightning, on the foe. 725  
So Mars, when human crimes for vengeance call,  
Shakes his huge jav'lin, and whole armies fall.  
Not with more rage a conflagration rolls,  
Wraps the vast mountains, and involves the poles.  
He foams with wrath ; beneath his gloomy brow 730  
Like fiery meteors his red eye-balls glow :  
The radiant helmet on his temples burns,  
Waves when he nods, and lightens as he turns :  
For Jove his splendour round the chief had thrown,  
And cast the blaze of both the hosts on one. 735  
Unhappy glories ! for his fate was near,  
Due to stern Pallas, and Pelides' spear :  
Yet Jove deferr'd the death he was to pay,  
And gave what fate allow'd, the honours of a day !  
Now all on fire for fame, his breast, his eyes 740  
Burn at each foe, and single ev'ry prize ;  
Still at the closest ranks, the thickest fight,  
He points his ardour, and exerts his might.  
The Grecian phalanx moveless as a tow'r  
On all sides batter'd, yet resists his pow'r : 745  
So some tall rock o'erhangs the hoary main,  
By winds assail'd, by billows beat in vain,  
Unmov'd it hears, above, the tempest blow,  
And sees the wat'ry mountains break below,  
Girt in surrounding flames, he seems to fall 750  
Like fire from Jove, and bursts upon them all :

Book XV. HOMER'S ILIAD. 73

Bursts as a wave that from the clouds impends,  
And swell'd with tempests on the ship descends;  
White are the decks with foam; the winds aloud 75  
Howl o'er the masts, and sing through ev'ry shroud:  
Pale, trembling, tir'd, the sailors freeze with fears;  
And instant death on ev'ry wave appears.  
So pale the Greeks the eyes of Hector meet,  
The chief so thunders, and so shakes the fleet.

As when a lion, rushing from his den, 760  
Amidst the plain of some wide water'd fen,  
(Where num'rous oxen, as at ease they feed,  
At large expatiate o'er the ranker mead);  
Leaps on the herds before the herdsman's eyes;  
The tumbling herdsman far to distance flies: 765  
Some lordly bull (the rest dispers'd and fled)  
He singles out; arrests, and lays him dead.  
Thus from the rage of Jove like Hector flew  
All Greece in heaps; but one he seiz'd, and slew;  
Mycenian Periphas, a mighty name, 770  
In wisdom great, in arms well known to fame;  
The minister of stern Eurytbeus' ire,  
Against Alcides, Copreus was his fire:  
The son redeem'd the honours of the race,  
A son as gen'rous as the fire was base; 775  
O'er all his country's youth conspicuous far  
In ev'ry virtue, or of peace or war:  
But doom'd to Hector's stronger force to yield!  
Against the margin of his ample shield  
He struck his hasty foot: his heels up sprung; 780  
Supine he fell; his brazen helmet rung.  
On the fall'n chief th' invading Trojan prest,  
And plung'd the pointed jav'lin in his breast.  
His circling friends, who strove to guard too late  
Th' unhappy hero, fled, or shar'd his fate. 785

Chas'd from the foremost line, the Grecian train  
Now man the next, receding tow'r'd the main:

## 74 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XV.

Wedge'd in one body at the tents they stand,  
Wall'd round with sterns, a gloomy desp'rate band.  
Now manly shame forbids th' inglorious flight; 790  
Now fear itself confines them to the fight:  
Man courage breathes in man; but Nestor most  
(The sage preserver of the Grecian host)  
Exhorts, adjures, to guard these utmost shores;  
And by their parents, by themselves, implores. 795

O friends! be men: your gen'rrous breasts inflame  
With mutual honour, and with mutual shame!  
Think of your hopes, your fortunes; all the care  
Your wives, your infants, and your parents share:  
Think of each living father's rev'rend head: 800  
Think of each ancestor with glory dead;  
Absent, by me they speak, by me they sue;  
They ask their safety, and their fame, from you:  
The Gods their fates on this one action lay,  
And all are lost, if you desert the day. 805

He spoke, and round him breath'd heroic fires;  
Minerva seconds what the sage inspires.  
The mist of darkness Jove around them threw  
She clear'd, restoring all the war to view;  
A sudden ray shot beaming o'er the plain, 810  
And shew'd the shores, the navy, and the main:  
Hector they saw, and all who fly, or fight,  
The scene wide opening to the blaze of light.  
First of the field great Ajax strikes their eyes,  
His port majestic, and his ample size: 815  
A pond'rous mace with studs of iron crown'd,  
Full twenty cubits long he swings around;  
Nor fights like others fix'd to certain stands,  
But looks a moving tow'r above the bands;  
High on the decks, with vast gigantic stride, 820  
The god like hero stalks from side to side.  
So when a horseman from the wat'ry mead  
(Skill'd in the manage of the bounding steed)

Book XV. HOMER's ILIAD. 75

Drives four fair coursers, practis'd to obey,  
To some great city thro' the public way; 825  
Safe in his art, as side by side they run,  
He shifts his seat, and vaults from one to one;  
And now to this, and now to that he flies;  
Admiring numbers follow with their eyes.

From ship to ship thus Ajax swiftly flew, 830

No less the wonder of the warring crew.

As furious Hector thunder'd threats aloud,  
And rush'd enrag'd before the Trojan croud:

Then swift invades the ships, whose beaky prores

Lay rank'd contiguous on the bending shores: 835

So the strong eagle from his airy height,

Who marks the swans' or cranes' embody'd flight,

Stoops down impetuous, while they light for food,

And swooping, darkens with his wings the flood.

Jove leads him on with his almighty hand, 840

And breathes fierce spirits in his following band.

The warring nations meet, the battle roars,

Thick beats the combat on the sounding prores.

Thou wouldest have thought, so furious was their fire,

No force could tame them, and no toil could tire; 845

As if new vigour from new fights they won,

And the long battle was but then begun.

Greece yet unconquer'd, kept alive the war,

Secure of death, confiding in despair;

Troy in proud hopes, already view'd the main 850

Bright with the blaze, and red with heroes slain!

Like strength is felt from hope, and from despair,

And each contends, as his were all the war.

'Twas thou, bold Hector! whose resistless hand  
First seiz'd a ship on that contested strand; 855

The same which dead Protesilaus bore,

The first that touch'd th' unhappy Trojan shore:

For this in arms the warring nations stood,

And bath'd their gen'rous breasts with mutual blood.

No room to poize the lance, or bend the bow ; 860  
But hand to hand, and man to man they grow :  
Wounded they wound ; and seek each other's hearts  
With faulchions, axes, swords, and shorten'd darts.  
The faulchions ring, shields rattle, axes sound,  
Swords flash in air, or glitter on the ground ; 865  
With streaming blood the slipp'ry shores are dy'd,  
And slaughter'd heroes swell the dreadful tide.

Still raging Hector with his ample hand  
Grasps the high stern, and gives this loud command.

Haste, bring the flames ! the toil of ten long years 870  
Is finish'd ; and the day desir'd appears !  
This happy day with acclamations greet,  
Bright with destruction of yon hostile fleet.  
The coward counsels of a tim'rous throng  
Of reverend dotards, check'd our glory long : 875  
Too long Jove lull'd us with lethargic charms,  
But now in peals of thunder calls to arms :  
In this great day he crowns our full desires,  
Wakes all our force, and seconds all our fires.

He spoke—the warriors, at his fierce command, 880  
Pour a new deluge on the Grecian band.  
Ev'n Ajax paus'd (so thick the jav'lins fly),  
Stept back, and doubted or to live, or die.  
Yet where the oars are plac'd, he stands to wait  
What chief approaching dares attempt his fate : 885  
Ev'n to the last, his naval charge defends,  
Now shakes his spear, now lifts, and now portends ;  
Ev'n yet, the Greeks with piercing shouts inspires,  
Amidst attacks, and deaths, and darts, and fires.

O friends ! O heroes ! names for ever dear, 890  
Once sons of Mars, and thunderbolts of war !  
Ah ! yet be mindful of your old renown,  
Your great forefathers virtues and your own.  
What aids expect you in this utm. st strait ?  
What bulwarks rising between you and fate ? 895

No aids, no bulwarks your retreat attend,  
No friends to help, no city to defend.  
This spot is all you have, to lose or keep ;  
There stand the Trojans, and here rolls the deep.  
'Tis hostile ground you tread ; your native lands 900  
Far, far from hence : your fates are in your hands.

Raging he spoke ; nor farther wastes his breath,  
But turns his jav'lin to the work of death.  
Whate'er bold Trojan arm'd his daring hands,  
Against the fable ships, with flaming brands, 905  
So well the chief his naval weapon sped,  
The luckless warrior at his stern lay dead :  
Full twelve, the boldest, in a moment fell,  
Sent by great Ajax to the shades of hell.



T H E  
I L I A D.  
B O O K X VI.

T H E A R G U M E N T.

The sixth battle: the acts and death of Patroclus.

Patroclus (*in pursuance of the request of Nestor in the eleventh book*) entreats Achilles to suffer him to go to the assistance of the Greeks with Achilles's troops and armour. He agrees to it, but at the same time charges him to content himself with rescuing the fleet, without farther pursuit of the enemy. The armour, horses, soldiers, and officers of Achilles are described. Achilles offers a libation for the success of his friend, after which Patroclus leads the Myrmidons to battle. The Trojans, at the sight of Patroclus in Achilles's armour, taking him for that hero, are cast into the utmost consternation: he beats them off from the vessels. Hector himself flies, Sarpedon is killed, though Jupiter was averse to his fate. Several other particulars of the battle are described: in the heat of which, Patroclus, neglecting the orders of Achilles, pursues the foe to the walls of Troy; where Apollo repulses and disarms him, Euphorbus wounds him, and Hector kills him: which concludes the book.

Book XVI. H O M E R's I L I A D. 79

S O warr'd both armies on th' ensanguin'd shore,  
While the black vessels smoak'd with hum an gore.

Meantime Patroclus to Achilles flies;

The streaming tears fall copious from his eyes;

Not faster, trickling to the plains below, 5

From the tall rock the sable waters flow.

Divine Pelides, with compassion mov'd,

Thus spoke, indulgent to his best belov'd.

Patroclus, say, what grief thy bosom bears,

That flows so fast in these unmanly tears? 10

No girl, no infant whom the mother keeps

From her lov'd breast, with fonder passion weeps;

No more the mother's soul that infant warms,

Clung to her knees, and reaching at her arms,

Than thou hast mine! Oh tell me, to what end 15

Thy melting sorrows thus pursue thy friend?

Griev'st thou for me, or for my martial band?

Or come sad tidings from our native land?

Our fathers live, (our first, most tender care),

Thy good Menœtius breathes the vital air, 20

And hoary Peleus yet extends his days;

Pleas'd in their age to hear their childrens praise.

Or may some meaner cause thy pity claim?

Perhaps yon relics of the Grecian name,

Doom'd in their ships to sink by fire and sword, 25

And pay the forfeit of their haughty lord;

Whate'er the cause, reveal thy secrect care,

And speak those sorrows which a friend would share.

A sigh, that instant, from his bosom broke,

Another follow'd, and Patroclus spoke. 30

Let Greece at length with pity touch thy breast,

Thyself a Greek; and, once, of Greeks the best!

Lo! ev'ry chief that might her fate prevent,

Lies pierc'd with wounds, and bleeding in his tent.

## 80 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XVI.

Eurypylus, Tydides, Atreus' son, 35 }  
 And wise Ulysses, at the navy groan  
 More for their country's wounds, than for their own. }  
 Their pain soft arts of pharmacy can ease,  
 Thy breast alone no lenitives appease.

May never rage like thine my soul enslave, 40  
 O great in vain! unprofitably brave!  
 Thy country slighted in her last distress,  
 What friend, what man, from thee shall hope redress?  
 No—men unborn, and ages yet behind,  
 Shall curse that fierce, that unforgiving mind. 45

O man unpitying! if of man thy race;  
 But sure thou spring'st not from a soft embrace,  
 Nor ever am'rous hero caus'd thy birth,  
 Nor ever tender Goddess brought thee forth.  
 Some rugged rock's hard entrails gave thee form, 50  
 And raging seas produc'd thee in a storm.  
 A soul well suiting that tempestuous kind,  
 So rough thy manners, so untam'd thy mind.

If some dire oracle thy breast alarm,  
 If aught from Jove, or Thetis, stop thy arm, 55  
 Some beam of comfort yet on Greece may shine,  
 If I but lead the Myrmidonian line:  
 Clad in thy dreadful arms if I appear,  
 Proud Troy shall tremble, and desert the war:  
 Without thy person Greece shall win the day, 60  
 And thy mere image chase her foes away.  
 Pres'd by fresh forces, her o'erlabour'd train  
 Shall quit the ships, and Greece respire again.

Thus, blind to fate! with supplicating breath,  
 Thou begg'st his arms, and in his arms thy death. 65  
 Unfortunately good! a boding sigh  
 Thy friend return'd; and with it this reply.

Patroclus! thy Achilles knows no fears:  
 Nor words from Jove, nor oracles he hears;

Nor aught a mother's caution can suggest; 70  
The tyrant's pride lies rooted in my breast.  
My wrongs, my wrongs, my constant thought engage,  
Those, my sole oracles, inspire my rage;  
I made him tyrant: gave him power to wrong  
Ev'n me; I felt it; and shall feel it long. 75  
The maid, my black ey'd maid, he forc'd away,  
Due to the toils of many a well fought day;  
Due to my conquest of her father's reign;  
Due to the votes of all the Grecian train.  
From me he forc'd her; me, the bold and brave; 80  
Disgrac'd, dishonour'd, like a slave.  
But bear we this—the wrongs I grieve are past;  
'Tis time our fury should relent at last:  
I fix'd its date; the day I wish'd appears:  
Now Hector to my ships his battle bears, 85 }  
The flames my eyes, the shouts invade my ears.  
Go then, Patroclus! court fair honour's charms  
In Troy's fam'd fields, and in Achilles' arms:  
Lead forth my martial Myrmidons to fight,  
Go save the fleets, and conquer in my right. 90  
See the thin relics of their baffled band,  
At the last edge of yon deserted land!  
Behold all lion on their ships descends;  
How the cloud blackens, how the storm impends!  
It was not thus, when, at my sight amaz'd, 95  
Troy saw and trembled, as this helmet blaz'd:  
Had not th' i'jurious king our friendship lost,  
Yon ample trench had bury'd half her host.  
No camps, no bulwarks now the Trojans fear,  
Those are not dreadful, no Achilles there: 100  
No longer flames the lance of Tydeus' son;  
No more your gen'ral calls his heroes on:  
Hector, alone, I hear; his dreadful breath  
Commands your slaughter, or proclaims your death.

Yet now, Patroclus, issue to the plain ; } 105  
 Now save the ships, the rising fires restrain,  
 And give the Greeks to visit Greece again.  
 But heed my words, and mark a friend's command,  
 Who trusts his fame and honours in thy hand,  
 And from thy deeds expects, th'Achaian host } 110  
 Shall render back the beauteous maid he lost :  
 Rage uncontroll'd through all the hostile crew,  
 But touch not Hector, Hector is my due.  
 Though Jove in thunder should command the war,  
 Be just, consult my glory, and forbear. } 115  
 The fleet once sav'd, desist from farther chace,  
 Nor lead to Ilion's walls the Grecian race ;  
 Some adverse God thy rashness may destroy ;  
 Some God, like Phœbus, ever kind to Troy.  
 Let Greece redeem'd from this destructive strait, } 120  
 Do her own work ; and leave the rest to fate.  
 Oh ! would to all th' immortal pow'rs above,  
 Apollo, Pallas, and almighty Jove !  
 That not one Trojan might be left alive,  
 And not a Greek of all the race survive ; } 125  
 Might only we the vast destruction shun,  
 And only we destroy th' accursed town !

Such conf'rence held the chiefs ; while on the strand  
 Great Jove with conquest crown'd the Trojan band.  
 Ajax no more the sounding storm sustain'd, } 130  
 So thick, the darts an iron tempest rain'd :  
 On his tir'd arm the weighty buckler hung ;  
 His hollow helm with falling jav'lins rung ;  
 His breath, in quick, short pantings, comes and goes ;  
 And painful sweat from all his members flows. } 135  
 Spent and o'erpower'd, he barely breathes at most ;  
 Yet scarce an army stirs him from his post :  
 Dangers on dangers all around him grow,  
 And toil to toil, and wo succeeds to wo.

Say, Muses, thron'd above the starry frame, 140  
How first the navy blaz'd with Trojan flame?

Stern Hector wav'd his sword : and standing near  
Where furious Ajax ply'd his ashen spear,  
Full on the lance a stroke so justly sped,  
That the broad faulchion lopp'd its brazen head: 145  
His pointless spear the warrior shakes in vain;  
The brazen head falls sounding on the plain.  
Great Ajax saw, and own'd the hand divine,  
Confessing Jove, and trembling at the sign;  
Warn'd, he retreats. Then swift from all sides pour  
The hissing brands, thick streams the fiery show'r; 151  
O'er the high stern the curling volumes rise,  
And sheets of rolling smoke involve the skies.

Divine Achilles view'd the rising flames,  
And smote his thigh, and thus aloud exclaims. 155  
Arm, arm, Patroclus! Lo, the blaze aspires!  
The glowing ocean reddens with the fires.  
Arm, ere our vessels catch the spreading flame;  
Arm, ere the Grecians be no more a name;  
I haste to bring the troops——The hero said; 160  
The friend with ardour and with joy obey'd.

He cas'd his limbs in bras; and first around  
His manly legs, with silver buckles bound  
The clasping greaves; then to his breast applies  
The flamby cuirass, of a thousand dyes; 165  
Enblaz'd with studs of gold his faulchion shone  
In the rich belt, as in a starry zone:  
Achilles' shield his ample shoulders spread,  
Achilles' helmet nodded o'er his head;  
Adorn'd in all his terrible array, 170  
He flash'd around intolerable day.  
Alone, untouch'd, Pelides' jav'l'n stands,  
Not to be pois'd but by Pelides' hands;  
From Pelion's shady brow the plant entire  
Old Chiron rent, and shap'd it for his sire; 175

Whose son's great arm alone the weapon wields,  
The death of heroes, and the dread of fields.

Then brave Automedon (an honour'd name,  
The second to his lord in love and fame,  
In peace his friend, and partner of the war) 180  
The winged coursers harness'd to the car;  
Xanthus and Balius, of immortal breed,  
Sprung from the wind, and like the wind in speed;  
Whom the wing'd Harpy, swift Podarge, bore,  
By Zephyr pregnant on the breezy shore: 185  
Swift Pegasus was added to their side,  
(Once great Aetion's, now Achilles' pride),  
Who, like in strength, in swiftness, and in grace,  
A mortal courser, match'd th' immortal race.

Achilles speeds from tent to tent, and warms 190  
His hardy Myrmidons to blood and arms.  
All breathing death, around their chief they stand,  
A grim, terrific, formidable band:  
Crim as voracious wolves, that seek the springs,  
When scalding thirst their burning bowels wrings; 195  
When some tall stag, fresh slaughter'd in the wood,  
Has drench'd their wide infatiate throats with blood,  
To the black fount they rush, a hideous throng,  
With paunch distended, and with lolling tongue,  
Fire flies their eye, their black jaws belch the gore, 200  
And gorg'd with slaughter, still they thirst for more.  
Like furious rush'd the Myrmidonian crew,  
Such their dread strength, and such their deadly view.

High in the midst the great Achilles stands,  
Directs their order, and the war commands. 205  
He, lov'd of Jove, had launch'd for Ilion's shores  
Full fifty vessels, mann'd with fifty oars:  
Five chosen leaders the fierce bands obey,  
Himself supreme in valour, as in sway.

First march'd Menestheus, of celestial birth, 210  
Deriv'd from thee, whose waters wash the earth,

Divine Sperchius ! Jove descended flood !  
A mortal mother mixing with a God.  
Such was Menelaeus, but miscall'd by fame  
The son of Borus, that espous'd the dame.

215

Eudorus next; whom Polymele the gay,  
Fam'd in the graceful dance, produc'd to day.  
Her fly Celenus lov'd, on her would gaze,  
As with swift step she form'd the running maze :  
To her high chamber from Diana's quire, 220  
The God pursu'd her, urg'd, and crown'd his fire.  
The son confess'd his father's heav'nly race,  
And heir'd his mother's swiftness in the chace.  
Strong Echecleus, bleis'd in all those charms  
That pleas'd a God, succeeded to her arms ; 225  
Not conscious of those loves, long hid from fame,  
With gifts of price he sought and won the dame :  
Her secret offspring to her fire she bare;  
Her fire carret'sd him with a parent's care.

Pisander follow'd ; matchless in his art 230  
To wing the spear, or aim the distant dart ;  
No hand so sure of all th' Ematian line,  
Or if a surer, great Patroclus ! thine.

The fourth by Phoenix' grave command was grac'd ;  
Laerces' valiant offspring led the lait. 235

Soon as Achilles with superior care  
Had call'd the chiefs, and order'd all the war,  
This stern remembrance to his troops he gave :  
Ye far fam'd Myrmidons, ye fierce and brave !  
Think with what threats you dar'd the Trojan throng,  
Think what reproach these ears endur'd so long, 241  
" Stern son of Peleus," (thus ye us'd to say,  
While restless, raging in your ships ye lay),  
" Oh nurs'd with gall, unknowing how to yield !  
" Whose rage defrauds us of so fam'd a field. 245  
" If that dire fury must for ever burn,  
" What make ye here ? Return, ye chiefs, return !"

Such were your words—Now, warriors, grieve no more.  
**Lo** there the **Trojans**! bathe your swords in gore!  
**This** day shall give you all your soul demands 250  
**Glut** all your hearts! and weary all your hands!  
**Thus** while he rous'd the fire in ev'ry breast,  
Close, and more close, the lift'ning cohorts prest;  
Ranks wedg'd in ranks; of arms a steely ring  
Still grows, and spreads, and thickens round the king.  
**As** when a circling wall the builder forms, 256  
Of strength defensive against wind and storms,  
Compacted stones the thick'ning work compose,  
And round him wide the rising structure grows:  
So helm to helm, and crest to crest they throng, 260  
Shield urg'd on shield, and man drove man along;  
**Thick**, undistinguish'd plumes, together join'd,  
Float in one sea, and wave before the wind.

Far o'er the rest, in glitt'ring pomp appear  
**There** bold **Automedon**, **Patroclus** here; 265  
Brothers in arms, with equal fury fir'd;  
Two friends, two bodies with one soul inspir'd.

But mindful of the Gods Achilles went  
To the rich coffer in his shady tent:  
**There** lay on heaps his various garments roll'd, 270  
And costly furs, and carpets stiff with gold;  
(**The** presents of the silver-footed dame).  
From thence he took a bowl, of antique frame,  
Which never man had stain'd with ruddy wine,  
Nor rais'd in off'rings to the pow'r's divine, 275  
But Peleus' son; and Peleus' son to none  
Had rais'd in off'rings, but to Jove alone.  
This ting'd with sulphur, sacred first to flame,  
He purg'd; and wash'd it in the running stream.  
Then cleans'd his hands; and fixing for a space 280  
His eyes on heav'n, his feet upon the place  
Of sacrifice, the purple draught he pour'd  
Forth in the midst; and thus the God implor'd.

Book XVI. HOMER's ILIAD. 87

O thou supreme ! high thron'd all height above !

Oh great Pelasgic, Dodonæan Jove ! 285

Who 'midst surrounding frosts, and vapours chill,

Presid'st on bleak Dodona's vocal hill :

(Whose groves, the Selli, race austere ! surround,  
Their feet unwash'd, their flumbers on the ground ;  
Who hear, from rustling oaks thy dark decrees ; 290  
And catch the fates, low whisp'ring in the breeze).

Hear, as of old ! Thou gav'st, at Thetis' pray'r,

Glory to me, and to the Greeks despair.

Lo, to the dangers of the fighting field

The best, the dearest of my friends, I yield : 295

Though still determin'd, to my ships confin'd ;

Patroclus gone, I stay but half behind.

Oh ! be his guard thy providential care,

Confirm his heart, and string his arm to war :

Prest'd by his single force, let Hector see 300

His fame in arms not owing all to me.

But when the fleets are sav'd from foes and fire,

Let him with conquest and renown retire ;

Preserve his arms, preserve his social train,

And safe return him to those eyes again ! 305

Great Jove consents to half the chief's request,

But heav'n's eternal doom denies the rest ;

To free the fleet was granted to his pray'r ;

His safe return, the winds dispers'd in air.

Back to his tent the stern Achilles flies, 310

And waits the combat with impatient eyes.

Meanwhile the troops beneath Patroclus' care,

In invade the Trojans, and commence the war.

As wasps, provok'd by children in their play,

Pour from their mansions by the broad highway, 315

In swarms the guiltless traveller engage,

Whet all their stings, and call forth all their rage :

All rise in arms, and with a gen'ral cry

Affert their waxen domes, and buzzing progeny.

Thus from the tents the fervent legion swarms, 320.  
 So loud their clamours, and so keen their arms ;  
 Their rising rage Patroclus' breath inspires,  
 Who thus inflames them with heroic fires.

Oh warriors, partners of Achilles' praise !  
 Be mindful of your deeds in ancient days : 325  
 Your go-like master let your acts proclaim,  
 And add new glories to his mighty name.  
 Think, your Achilles sees you fight : be brave,  
 And humble the proud monarch whom you save.

Joyful they heard, and kindling as he spoke, 330  
 Flew to the fleet, involv'd in fire and smoke.  
 From shore to shore the doubling shouts resound,  
 The hollo v ships return a deeper sound.  
 The war stood still, and all around them gaz'd,  
 When great Achilles' shining armour blaz'd : 335  
 Troy saw, and thought the dread Achilles nigh,  
 At once they see, they tremble, and they fly.

Then first thy spear, divine Patroclus ! flew,  
 Where the war rag'd, and where the tumult grew.  
 Close to the stern of that fam'd ship, which bore 340  
 Unbless'd Protesilaus to Ilion's shore,  
 The great Peonian, bold Pyræchmes, stood ;  
 (Who led his bands from Axios' winding flood) ;  
 His shoulder-blade receives the fatal wound ;  
 The groaning warrior pants upon the ground. 345  
 His troops, that see their country's glory slain,  
 Fly diverse, scatter'd o'er the distant plain.  
 Patroclus' arm forbids the spreading fires,  
 And from the half burnt ship proud Troy retires :  
 Clear'd from the smoke the joyful navy lies : 350  
 In heaps on heaps the foe tumultuous flies ;  
 Triumphant Greece her rescu'd decks ascends,  
 And loud acclaim the starry region rends.  
 So when thick clouds inwrap the mountain's head,  
 O'er heav'n's expanse like one black ceiling spread :

Book XVI. H O M E R's I L I A D. 89.

Sudden, the Thund'r'er, with a flashing ray, 356  
Bursts through the darkness, and lets down the day:  
The hills shine out, the rocks in prospect rise,  
And streams, and vales, and forests strike the eyes;  
The smiling scene wide opens to the sight, 360  
And all th' unmeasur'd æther flames with light.

But Troy repul'sd, and scatter'd o'er the plains,  
Forc'd from the navy, yet the fight maintains.  
Now ev'ry Greek some hostile hero flew ;  
But still the foremost, bold Patroclus flew ; 365  
As Areilucus had turn'd him round,  
Sharp in his thigh he felt the piercing wound ;  
The brazen pointed spear, with vigour thrown,  
The thigh transfix'd, and broke the brittle bone :  
Headlong he fell. Next, Thoas, was thy chance, 370  
Thy breast, unarm'd, receiv'd the Spartan lance.  
Phylides' dart (as Amphiclus drew nigh)  
His blow prevented, and transpierc'd his thigh,  
Tore all the brawn, and rent the nerves away ;  
In darkness, and in death the warrior lay. 375

In equal arms two sons of Nestor stand,  
And two bold brothers of the Lycian band :  
By great Antilochus, Atymnius dies,  
Pierc'd in the flank, lamented youth ! he lies,  
Kind Maris, bleeding in his brother's wound, 380  
Defends the breathless carcase on the ground.  
Furious he flies, his murd'rer to engage ;  
But godlike Thrasimed prevents his rage,  
Between his arm and shoulder aims a blow ;  
His arm falls spouting to the dust below : 385  
He sinks, with endless darkness cover'd o'er ;  
And vents his soul, effus'd with gushing gore.

Slain by two brothers, thus two brothers bleed,  
Sarpedon's friends, Amisodarus' seed ;  
Amisodarus, who, by furies led, 390  
The bane of men, abhor'd Chimæra bred ;

## 90 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XVI.

Skill'd in the dart in vain, his sons expire,  
And pay the forfeit of their guilty fire.

Stopp'd in the tumult Cleobulus lies,  
Beneath Oileus' arm, a living prize ; 395  
A living prize not long the Trojan stood ;  
The thirsty faulchion drank his reeking blood ;  
Plung'd in his throat the smoaking weapon lies ;  
Black death, and fate unpitying, seal his eyes.

Amid the ranks, with mutual thirst of fame, 400  
Lycon the brave, and fierce Peneleus came :  
In vain their jav'lins at each other flew,  
Now, met in arms, their eager swords they drew.  
On the plum'd crest of his Boeotian foe,  
The daring Lycon aim'd a noble blow : 405  
The sword broke short ; but his Peneleus sped  
Full on the juncture of the neck and head :  
The head, divided by a stroke so just,  
Hung by the skin : the body sunk to dust.

O'er taken Neamas by Merion bleeds, 410  
Pierc'd through the shoulder as he mounts his steeds ;  
Back from the car he tumbles to the ground :  
His swimming eyes eternal shades surround.

Next Erymas was doom'd his fate to feel,  
His open'd mouth receiv'd the Cretan steel : 415  
Beneath the brain the point a passage tore,  
Crash'd the thin bones, and drown'd the teeth in gore :  
His mouth, his eyes, his nostrils pour a flood ;  
He soos his soul out in a gush of blood.

As when the flocks neglected by the swain 420  
(Or kids, or lambs) lies scatter'd o'er the plain,  
A troop of wolves th' unguarded charge survey,  
And rend the trembling, unresisting prey :  
Thus on the foe the Greeks impetuous came :  
Troy fled, unmindful of her former fame. 425

But still at Hector godlike Ajax aim'd,  
Still pointed at his breast, his jav'lin flam'd :

The Trojan chief, experienc'd in the field,  
O'er his broad shoulders spread the massy shield,  
Observ'd the storm of darts the Grecians pour, 430  
And on his buckler caught the ringing show'r.  
He sees for Greece the scale of conquest rise,  
Yet stops, and turns, and saves his lov'd allies.

As when the hand of Jove a tempest forms,  
And rolls the cloud to blacken heav'n with storms, 435  
Dark o'er the fields th'ascending vapour flies,  
And shades the sun, and blots the golden skies:  
So from the ships along the dusky plain,  
Dire Flight and Terror drove the Trojan train.  
Ev'n Hector fled; through heaps of disarray 440  
The fiery coursers forc'd their lord away:  
While far behind his Trojans fall confus'd;  
Wedg'd in the trench, in one vast carnage bruis'd:  
Chariots on chariots roll; the clashing spokes  
Shock; while the madding steeds break short their  
yokes: 445

In vain they labour up the steepy mound;  
Their chariooteers lie foaming on the ground.  
Fierce on the rear, with shouts, Patroclus flies;  
Tumultuous clamour fills the fields and skies;  
Thick drifts of dust involve their rapid flight; 450  
Clouds rise on clouds, and heav'n is snatch'd from sight.  
Th' affrighted steeds, their dying lords cast down,  
Scour o'er the fields, and stretch to reach the town.  
Loud o'er the rout was heard the victor's cry,  
Where the war bleeds, and where the thickest die, 455  
Where horse and arms, and chariots lie o'erthrown,  
And bleeding heroes under axles groan.  
No stop, no check the steeds of Peleus knew;  
From bank to bank th'immortal coursers flew,  
High-bounding o'er the fosse: the whirling car 460  
Smokes through the ranks, overtakes the flying war,

And thunders after Hector; Hector flies,  
 Patroclus shakes his lance; but fate denies.  
 Not with less noise, with less impetuous force,  
**The tide of Trojans urge their desp'rate course,** 465  
 Than when in autumn Jove with fury pours,  
 And earth is loaden with incessant show'rs,  
 (When guilty mortals break th' eternal laws,  
 Or judges brib'd betray the righteous cause);  
 From their deep beds he bids the rivers rise, 470  
 And opens all the flood gates of the skies:  
 Th' impetuous torrents from their hills obey,  
 Whole fields are drown'd, and mountains swept away;  
 Loud roars the deluge till it meets the main;  
 And trembling man sees all his labours vain. 475

And now the chief (the foremost troops repell'd)  
 Back to the ships his destin'd progress held,  
 Bore down half Troy in his resistless way,  
 And forc'd the routed ranks to stand the day.  
 Between the space where silver Simois flows, 480  
 Where lay the fleets, and where the rampires rose,  
 All grim in dust and blood, Patroclus stands,  
 And turns the slaughter on the conqu'ring bands.  
 First Pronous dy'd beneath his fiery dart,  
 Which pierc'd below the shield his valiant heart. 485  
 Thestor was next; who saw the chief appear,  
 And fell the victim of his coward fear;  
 Shrunk up he sat, with wild and haggard eye,  
 Nor stood to combat, nor had force to fly:  
 Patroclus mark'd him as he shunn'd the war, 490  
 And with unmanly tremblings shook the car,  
 And dropt the flowing reins. Him 'twixt the jaws  
 The jav'lin sticks, and from the chariot draws.  
 As on a rock that overhangs the main,  
 An angler, studious of the line and cane, 495  
 Some mighty fish draws panting to the shore;  
 Not with less ease the barbed jav'lin bore

The gaping dastard : as the spear was shook,  
He fell, and left his heartless breast forsook.

Next on Erylus he flies ; a stone 500  
Large as a rock, was by his fury thrown ?

Full on his crown the pond'rous fragment flew,  
And burst the helm, and cleft the head in two :  
Prone to the ground the breathless warrior fell,  
And death involv'd him with the shades of hell. 505

Then low in dust Epaltes, Echius lie ;  
Ipheas, Evippus, Polymelus, die ;  
Amphoterus, and Erymas succeed ;  
And last Tlepolemus and Pyres bleed.

Where e'er he moves, the growing slaughter spread  
In heaps on heaps ; a monument of dead. 511

When now Sarpedon h's brave friends beheld  
Grov'ling in dust, and gasping on the field,  
With this reproach his flying host he warms,  
Oh stain to honour ! oh disgrace to arms ! 515  
Forsake, inglorious, the contended plain ;  
This hand, unaided, shall the war sustain :  
The task be mine, this hero's strength to try,  
Who mows whole troops, and makes an army fly.  
He spake ; and speaking, leaps from off the car ; 520  
Patroclus lights, and sternly waits the war.  
As when two vultures on the mountain's height  
Stoop with resounding pinions to the fight ;  
They cuff, they tear, they raise a screaming cry :  
The desart echoes, and the rocks reply : 525  
The warriors thus oppos'd in arms, engage  
With equal clamours, and with equal rage.

Jove view'd the combat : whose event foreseen,  
He thus bespoke his sister and his queen.  
The hour draws on ; the destinies ordain, 530  
My godlike son shall press the Phrygian plain :  
Already on the verge of death he stands,  
His life is ow'd to fierce Patroclus' hands.

## 94 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XVI.

What passions in a parent's breast debate !  
 Say, shall I snatch him from impending fate, 535  
 And send him safe to Lycia, distant far  
 From all the dangers and the toils of war ;  
 Or to his doom my bravest offspring yield,  
 And satten with celestial blood, the field ?

Then thus the Goddess with the radiant eyes : 540  
 What words are these ? O sovereign of the skies !  
 Short is the date prescrib'd to mortal man ;  
 Shall Jove, for one, extend the narrow span, }  
 Whose bounds were fix'd before his race began ? }  
 How many sons of Gods, foredoom'd to death, 545  
 Before proud Ilion, must resign their breath !  
 Were thine exempt, debate would rise above,  
 And murmur'ring pow'r's condemn their partial Jove.  
 Give the bold chief a glorious fate in fight ;  
 And when th' ascending soul has wing'd her flight, 550  
 Let Sleep and Death convey, by thy command,  
 The breathless body to his native land.  
 His friends and people, to his future praise,  
 A marble tomb and pyramid shall raise,  
 And lasting honours to his ashes give : 555  
 His fame ('tis all the dead can have) shall live.

She said ; the cloud-compeller overcome,  
 Assents to fate, and ratifies the doom.  
 Then, touch'd with grief, the weeping heav'ns distill'd  
 A show'r of blood o'er all the fatal field ; 560  
 The God, his eyes averting from the plain,  
 Laments his son, predestin'd to be slain, }  
 Far from the Lycian shores, his happy native reign. }

Now met in arms, the combatants appear,  
 Each heav'd the shield, and pois'd the lifted spear ;  
 From strong Patroclus' hand the jav'lin fled, 566  
 And pass'd the groin of valiant Thrasymed ;  
 The nerves unbrac'd, no more his bulk sustain,  
 He falls, and falling bites the bloody plain.

Book XVI. HOMER's ILIAD. 95

Two sounding darts the Lycian leader threw, 570  
The first aloof with erring fury flew,  
The next transpierc'd Achilles' mortal steed,  
The gen'rous Pegasus, of Theban breed ;  
Fix'd in the shoulder's joint, he reel'd around  
Roll'd in the bloody dust, and paw'd the flipp'ry  
ground. 575

His sudden fall th' entangled harness broke ;  
Each axle crackled, and the chariot shook :  
When bold Automedon, to disengage  
The starting coursers, and restrain their rage,  
Divides the traces with his sword, and freed 580  
Th' incumber'd chariot from the dying steed :  
The rest move on, obedient to the rein ;  
The car rolls slowly o'er the dusty plain.

The tow'ring chiefs to fiercer fight advance,  
And first Sarpedon whirl'd his weighty lance, 585  
Which o'er the warrior's shoulder took its course,  
And spent in empty air its dying force.  
Not so Patroclus' never erring dart ;  
Aim'd at his breast, it pierc'd the mortal part,  
Where the strong fibres bind the solid heart. 590 }  
Then, as the mountain oak, or poplar tall,  
Or pine (fit mast for some great admiral),  
Nods to the axe, till with a groaning sound  
It sinks, and spreads its honours on the ground ;  
Thus fell the king : and laid on earth supine, 595  
Before his chariot stretch'd his form divine :  
He grasp'd the dust distain'd with streaming gore,  
And pale in death, lay groaning on the shore.  
So lies a bull beneath the lion's paws,  
While the grim savage grinds with foamy jaws 600  
The trembling limbs, and sucks the smoaking blood ;  
Deep groans, and hollow roars rebeelow thro' the wood.  
Then to the leader of the Lycian band  
The dying chief address'd his last command.

## 96 H O M E R's I L I A D. Book XVI.

Glaucus, be bold ; thy task be first to dare 605  
 The glorious dangers of destructive war,  
 To lead my troops, to combat at their head,  
 Incite the living, and supply the dead.  
 Tell 'em, I charg'd them with my latest breath,  
 Not unreveng'd to bear Sarpedon's death. 610  
 What grief, what shame must Glaucus undergo,  
 If these spoil'd arms adorn a Grecian foe ?  
 Then as a friend, and as a warrior, fight ;  
 Defend my body, conquer in my right :  
 That, taught by great examples, all may try 615  
 Like thee to vanquish, or like me to die.

He ceas'd ; the fates suppress'd his lab'ring breath,  
 And his eyes darken'd with the shades of death.  
 Th' insulting victor with disdain bestrode  
 The prostrate prince, and on his bosom trod ; 620  
 Then drew the weapon from his panting heart,  
 The reeking fibres clinging to the dart ;  
 From the wide wound gush'd out a stream of blood,  
 And the soul issu'd in the purple flood.

His flying steeds the Myrmidons detain, 625  
 Unguided now, their mighty master slain.  
 All impotent of aid, transfix'd with grief,  
 Unhappy Glaucus heard the dying chief.  
 His painful arm, yet useless with the smart  
 Inflicted late by Teucer's deadly dart, 630  
 Supported on his better hand he stay'd ;  
 To Phœbus then ('twas all he could) he pray'd.

All seeing monarch ! whether Lycia's coast,  
 Or sacred Ilion, thy bright presence boast,  
 Pow'rful alike to ease the wretch's smart : 635  
 Oh hear me ! God of ev'ry healing art !  
 Lo ! slipp with clotted blood, and pierc'd with pain,  
 That thrills my arm, and shoots through ev'ry vein ;  
 I stand unable to sustain the spear,  
 And sigh, at distance from the glorious war. 640

Low in the dust is great Sarpedon laid,  
Nor Jove vouchsaf'd his hapless offspring aid.  
But thou, O God of health ! thy succour lend,  
To guard the relics of my slaughter'd friend.  
For thou, though distant, canst restore my might, 645  
To head my Lycians, and support the fight.

Apollo heard ; and suppliant as he stood,  
His heav'nly hand restrain'd the flux of blood :  
He drew the dolours from the wounded part,  
And breath'd a spirit in his rising heart. 650  
Renew'd by art divine, the hero stands,  
And owns th' assistance of immortal hands.  
First to the fight his native troops he warns,  
Then loudly calls on Troy's vindictive arms ;  
With ample strides he stalks from place to place ; 655  
Now fires Agenor, now Polydamas ;  
Æneas next, and Hector he accoasts ;  
Inflaming thus the rage of all their hosts.

What thoughts, regardless chief ! thy breast  
employ ?

Oh too forgetful of the friends of Troy ! 660  
Those gen'rous friends, who, from their country far,  
Breathe their brave souls out in another's war.  
See ! where in dust the great Sarpedon lies,  
In action valiant, and in council wise,  
Who guarded right, and kept his people free ; 665  
To all his Lycians lost, and lost to thee !  
Stretch'd by Patroclus' arm on yonder plains,  
Oh save from hostile rage his lov'd remains :  
Ah let not Greece his conquer'd trophies boast,  
Nor on his corse revenge her heroes lost. 670

He spoke ; each leader in his grief partook,  
Troy, at the loss, through all her legions shook.  
Transfix'd with deep regret, they view o'erthrown  
At once his country's pillar, and their own ;

## 98 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XVI.

- A chief who led to Troy's beleaguer'd wall 675  
 A host of heroes, and outshin'd them all.  
 Fir'd they rush on ; first Hector seeks the foes,  
 And with superior vengeance greatly glows.  
 But o'er the dead the fierce Patroclus stands,  
 And rousing Ajax, rous'd the list'ning bands. 680  
 Heroes, be men ! be what you were before ;  
 Or weigh the great occasion, and be more.  
 The chief who taught our lofty walls to yield,  
 Lies pale in death, extended on the field.  
 To guard his body Troy in numbers flies ; 685  
 'Tis half the glory to maintain our prize.  
 Haste, strip his arms, the slaughter round him spread,  
 And send the living Lycians to the dead.  
 The heroes kindle at his fierce command ;  
 The martial squadrons close on either hand : 690  
 Here Troy and Lycia charge with loud alarms,  
 Thessalia there, and Greece, oppose their arms.  
 With horrid shouts they circle round the slain ;  
 The clash of armour rings o'er all the plain.  
 Great Jove, to swell the horrors of the fight, 695  
 O'er t' e fierce armies pours pernicious Night,  
 And round his son confounds the warring hosts,  
 His fate ennobling with a croud of ghosts.  
 Now Greece gives way, and great Epigeus falls ;  
 Agacleus' son, from Budium's lofty walls : 700  
 Who chas'd for murder thence, a suppliant ca me  
 To Peleus, and the silver footed dame ;  
 Now sent to Troy, Achilles' arms to aid,  
 He pays due vengeance to his kinsman's shade.  
 Soon as his luckless hand had touch'd the dead, 705  
 A rock's large fragment thunder'd on his head ;  
 Hurl'd by Hectorean force, it cleft in twain  
 His shatter'd helm, and stretch'd him o'er the slain.  
 Fierce to the van of fight Patroclus came ;  
 And, like an eagle darting at his game, 710

Book XVI. HOMER's ILIAD. 99

Sprung on the Trojan and the Lycian band :  
What grief thy heart, what fury urg'd thy hand,  
Oh gen'rous Greek ! when with full vigour thrown  
At Sthenelaus flew the weighty stone,

Which sunk him to the dead ; when Troy, too near  
That arm, drew back : and Hector learn'd to fear.

For as an able hand a lance can throw, 717

Or at the lists, or at the fighting foe ;

So far the Trojans from their lines retir'd ;

Till Glaucus turning, all the rest inspir'd. 720

Then Bathycœus fell beneath his rage,

The only hope of Chalcon's trembling age :

Wide o'er the land was stretch'd his large domain,

With stately seats, and riches, bleſſ'd in vain :

Him, bold with youth, and eager to pursue 725

The flying Lycians, Glaucus met, and fl:w ;

Pierc'd through the bosom with a sudden wound,

He fell, and falling, made the fields resound.

Th' Achaians sorrow for their hero slain ; 729

With conq'ring shouts the Trojans shake the plain,

And croud to spoil the dead : the Greeks oppose ;

An iron circle round the carcase grows.

Then brave Laogonus resign'd his breath,

Dispatch'd by Merion to the shades of death :

On Ida's holy hill he made abode,

735

The priest of Jove, and honour'd like his God.

Between the jaw and ear the jav'lin went ;

The soul, exhaling, issu'd at the vent.

His spear Æneas at the victor threw,

Who stooping forward from the death withdrew ; 740

The lance hiss'd harmless o'er his covering shield,

And trembling struck, and rooted in the field ;

There yet scarce spent, it quivers on the plain,

Sent by the great Æneas' arm in vain.

Swift as thou art, (the raging hero cries), 745

And skill'd in dancing to dispute the prize,

My spear, the destin'd passage had it found,  
Had fix'd thy active vigour to the ground.

Oh valiant leader of the Dardan host!

(Insulted Merion thus retorts the boast), 750

Strong as you are, 'tis mortal force you trust,  
An arm as strong may stretch thee in the dust.

And if to this my lance thy fate be giv'n,  
Vain are thy vaunts; success is still from heav'n :  
This, instant, sends thee down to Pluto's coast, 755  
Mine is the glory, his thy parting ghost.

O friend, (Menœius' son, this answer gave),  
With words to combat, ill befits the brave ;  
Not empty boasts the sons of Troy repell,  
Your swords must plunge them to the shades of hell.  
To speak, beseems the council; but to dare 761  
In glorious action, is the task of war.

This said, Patroclus to the battle flies;  
Great Merion follows, and new shouts arise :  
Shields, helmets rattle, as the warriors close; 765  
And thick and heavy sounds the storm of blows.  
As through the shrilling vale, or mountain ground,  
The labours of the woodman's axe resound;  
Blows following blows are heard re-echoing wide,  
While crackling forests fall on ev'ry side: 770  
Thus echo'd all the fields with loud alarms,  
So fell the warriors, and so rung their arms.

Now great Sarpedon, on the sandy shore,  
His heav'nly form defac'd with dust and gore,  
And struck with darts by warring heroes shed, 775  
Lies undistinguish'd from the vulgar dead.  
His long disputed corse the chiefs inclose,  
On ev'ry side the busy combat grows;  
Thick as beneath some shepherd's thatch'd abode,  
(The pails high foaming with a milky flood), 780  
The buzzing flies, a persevering train,  
Incessant swarm, and chas'd return again.



Jove view'd the combat with a stern survey,  
And eyes that flish'd intolerable day.  
Fix'd on the field his sight, his breast debates      785  
The vengeance due, and meditates the fates ;  
Whether to urge their prop'r effect, and call  
The force of Hector to Patroclus' fall,  
This instant see his short-liv'd trophies won,  
And stretch him breathless on his slaughter'd son : 790  
Or yet, with many a foul's untimely flight,  
Augment the fame and horror of the fight.  
To crown Achilles' valiant friend with praise  
At length he dooms ; and that his last of days  
Shall set in glory ; bids him drive the foe ;      795  
Nor unattended, see the shades below.  
Then Hector's mind he fills with dire dismay ;  
He mounts his car, and calls his hosts away,  
Sunk with Troy's heavy fates, he sees decline  
The scales of Jove, and pants with awe divine. 800

Then, nor before, the hardy Lycians fled,  
And left their monarch with the common dead :  
Around, in heaps on heaps, a dreadful wall  
Of carnage rises, as the heroes fall.  
(So Jove decreed !) At length the Greeks obtain      805  
The prize contested, and despoil the slain.  
The radiant arms are by Patroclus born,  
Patroclus' ships the glorious spoils adorn.

Then thus to Phœbus, in the realms above,  
Spoke from his throne the cloud-compelling Jove.  
Descend, my Phœbus ! on the Phrygian plain,      811  
And from the fight convey Sarpedon slain ;  
Then bathe his body in the crystal flood,  
With dust dishonour'd, and deform'd with blood :  
O'er all his limbs ambrosial odours shed,      815  
And with celestial robes adorn the dead.  
Those rites discharg'd, his sacred corse bequeath  
To the soft arms of silent Sleep and Death :

They to his friends the mournful charge shall bear,  
His friends a tomb and pyramid shall rear ; 820  
What honours mortals after death receive,  
Those unavailing honours we may give !

Apollo bows, and from mount Ida's height,  
Swift to the field precipitates his flight :  
Thence from the war the breathless hero bore, 825  
Veil'd in a cloud, to silver Simois' shore ;  
There bath'd his honourable wounds, and drest  
His manly members in th' immortal vest ;  
And with perfumes of sweet ambrosial dews,  
Restores his freshness, and his form renews. 830  
Then Sleep and Death, two twins of winged race,  
Of matchless swiftness, but of silent pace,  
Receiv'd Sarpedon, at the God's command,  
And in a moment reach'd the Lycian land ;  
The corse amidst his weeping friends they laid, 835  
Where endless honours wait the sacred shade.

Meanwhile Patroclus pours along the plains,  
With foaming coursers, and with loosen'd reins.  
Fierce on the Trojan and the Lycian crew,  
Ah blind to fate ; thy headlong fury flew : 840  
Against what fate and pow'rful Jove ordain,  
Vain was thy friend's command, thy courage vain.  
For he, the God, whose counsels uncontroll'd  
Dismay the mighty, and confound the bold ;  
The God, who gives, resumes, and orders all, 845  
He urg'd thee on, and urg'd thee on to fall.

Who first, brave hero ! by that arm was slain,  
Who last beneath thy vengeance press'd the plain ;  
When heav'n itself thy fatal fury led,  
And call'd to fill the number of the dead ? 850  
Adrestus first ; Autonous then succeeds ;  
Echleucus follows ; next young Megas bleeds ;  
Epistor, Menalippus, bite the ground ;  
The slaughter Elasus and Milius crown'd :

Then sunk Pylartes to eternal night ; 855

The rest dispersing, trust their fates to flight.

Now Troy had stoop'd beneath his matchless pow'r,  
But flaming Phœbus kept the sacred tow'r.

Thrice at the battlements Patroclus strook,

His blazing ægis thrice Apollo shook : 860

He try'd the fourth : when, bursting from the cloud,  
A more than mortal voice was heard aloud.

Patroclus ! cease ; this heav'n defended wall  
Defies thy lance ; not fated yet to fall :

Thy friend, thy greater far, it shall withstand, 865  
Troy shall not stoop ev'n to Achilles' hand.

So spoke the God, who darts celestial fires  
The Greek obeys him, and with awe retires.  
While Hector checking at the Scæan gates  
His panting coursers, in his breast debates, 870

Or in the field his forces to employ,  
Or draw the troops within the walls of Troy.  
Thus while he thought, beside him Phœbus stood,  
In Asius' shape, who reign'd by Sangar's flood ;  
(Thy brother, Hecuba ! from Dymas sprung, 875  
A valiant warrior, haughty, bold, and young).

Thus he accosts him. What a shameful sight !  
Gods ! is it Hector that forbears the fight ?  
Were thine my vigour, this successful spear  
Should soon convince thee of so false a fear. 880  
Turn thee, ah turn thee to the field of fame,  
And in Patroclus' blood efface thy shame.  
Perhaps Apollo shall thy arms succeed,  
And heav'n ordains him by thy lance to bleed.

So spoke th' inspiring God ; then took his flight,  
And plung'd amidst the tumult of the fight. 886  
He bids Cebrión drive the rapid car ;  
The lash resounds, the coursers rush to war.  
The God the Grecians sinking souls deprest,  
And pour'd swift spirits through each Trojan breast

Patroclus lights, impatient for the fight; 891  
 A spear his left, a stone employs his right:  
 With all his nerves he drives it at the foe;  
 Pointed above, and rough and gross below:  
 The falling ruin crush'd Cebrion's head, 895  
 (The lawless offspring of king Priam's bed);  
 His front, brows, eyes, one undistinguish'd wound:  
 The bursting balls drop sightless to the ground.  
 The charioteer, while yet he held the rein,  
 Struck from the car, falls headlong on the plain. 900  
 To the dark shades the soul unwilling glides,  
 While the proud victor thus his fall derides.

Good heav'ns! what active feats yon artist shows?  
 What skilful divers are our Phrygian foes!  
 Mark with what ease they sink into the sand! 905  
 Pity! that all their practice is by land.

Then rushing sudden on his prostrate prize,  
 To spoil the carcase fierce Patroclus flies,  
 Swift as a lion, terrible and bold,  
 That sweeps the fields, depopulates the fold; 910  
 Pierc'd through the dauntless heart, then tumbles slain;  
 And from his fatal courage finds his bane.  
 At once bold Hector leaping from his car,  
 Defends the body, and provokes the war.  
 Thus for some slaughter'd hind, with equal rage, 915  
 Two lordly rulers of the wood engage;  
 Stung with fierce hunger, each the prey invades,  
 And echoing roars rebe low through the shades.  
 Stern Hector fastens on the warrior's head,  
 And by the foot Patroclus drags the dead, 920  
 While all around, confusion, rage, and fright  
 Mix the contending hosts in mortal fight.  
 So pent by hills, the wild winds roar aloud  
 In the deep bosom of some gloomy wood;  
 Leaves, arms, and trees aloft in air are blown, 925  
 The broad oaks crackle, and the sylvans groan;

This way and that, the rattling thicket bends,  
And the whole forest in one crash descends.  
Not with less noise, with less tumultuous rage,  
In dreadful shock the mingled hosts engage. 930  
Darts show'r'd on darts, now round the carcase ring;  
Now flights of arrows bounding from the string:  
Stones follow stones; some clatter on the fields,  
Some hard, and heavy, shake the sounding shields.  
But where the rising whirlwind clouds the plains,  
Sunk in soft dust the mighty chief remains, 936 }  
And stretch'd in death, forgets the guiding reins! }

Now flaming from the zenith, Sol had driv'n  
His fervid orb through half the vault of heav'n:  
While on each host with equal tempest fell 940  
The show'ring darts, and numbers sunk to hell.  
But when his ev'ning-wheels o'erhung the main,  
Glad conquest rested on the Grecian train.  
Then from amidst the tumult and alarms,  
They draw the conquer'd corse, and radiant arms. 945  
Then rash Patroclus with new fury glows,  
And breathing slaughter, pours amid the foes.  
Thrice on the press like Mars himself he flew,  
And thrice three heroes at each onset flew.  
There ends thy glory! there the fates untwine 950  
The last, black remnant of so bright a line;  
Apollo dreadful stops thy middle way;  
Death calls, and heav'n allows no longer day!

For lo! the God in dusky clouds enshrin'd,  
Approaching dealt a stagg'ring blow behind, 955  
The weighty shock his neck and shoulders feel;  
His eyes flash sparkles, his stunn'd senses reel  
In giddy darkness: far to distance flung,  
His bounded helmet on the champaign rung.  
Achilles' plume is stain'd with dust and gore; 960  
That plume, which never stoop'd to earth before;

Long us'd, untouched, in fighting fields to shine,  
And shed the temples of the man divine.  
Jove dooms it now on Hector's helm to nod ;  
Not long —— for fate pursues him, and the God. 965  
His spear in shivers falls : his ample shield  
Drops from his arm ; his baldric strows the field :  
The corslet his astonish'd breast forsakes :  
Loose is each joint ; each nerve with horror shakes.  
Stupid he stares, and all-afflittless stands : 970  
Such is the force of more than mortal hands !

A Dardan youth there was, well known to fame :  
From Panthus sprung, Euphorbus was his name ;  
Fam'd for the manage of the foaming horse,  
Skill'd in the dart, and matchless in the course. 975  
Full twenty knights he tumbled from the car,  
While yet he learn'd his rudiments of war.  
His vent'rous spear first drew the hero's gore :  
He struck, he wounded, but he durst no more ;  
Nor though disarm'd, Patroclus' fury stood : 980 }  
But swift withdrew the long-pretended wood,  
And turn'd him short, and herded in the crowd. }  
Thus, by an arm divine, and mortal spear,  
Wounded at once, Patroclus yields to fear,  
Retires for succour to his social train, 985  
And flies the fate, which heav'n decreed, in vain.  
Stern Hector, as the bleeding chief he views,  
Breaks through the ranks, and his retreat pursues :  
The lance arrests him with a mortal wound ;  
He falls, earth thunders, and his arms resound. 990  
With him all Greece was funk ; that moment all  
Her yet-surviving heroes seem'd to fall.  
So scorch'd with heat, along the desart shore,  
The roaming lion meets a bristly boar,  
Fast by the spring ; they both dispute the flood, 995  
With flaming eyes, and jaws besmear'd with blood ;

At length the sov'reign savage wins the strife,  
 And the torn boar resigns his thirst and life.  
 Patroclus thus, so many chiefs o'erthrown,  
 So many lives effus'd, expires his own, 1000  
 As dying now at Hector's feet he lies,  
 He sternly views him, and triumphing cries:

Lie there, Patroclus ! and with thee, the joy  
 Thy pride once promis'd, of subverting Troy ;  
 The fancy'd scenes of Ilion wrapt in flames, 1005  
 And thy soft pleasures serv'd with captive dames !  
 Unthinking man ! I fought, those tow'rs to free,  
 And guard that beauteous race from lords like thee ;  
 But thou a prey to vultures shalt be made ;  
 Thy own Achilles cannot lend the aid ; 1010  
 Though much at parting that great chief might say,  
 And much injoin thee, this important day.

" Return not, my brave friend," (perhaps he said),  
 " Without the bloody arms of Hector dead." }  
 He spoke, Patroclus march'd, and thus he sped. 1015

Supine, and wildly gazing on the skies,  
 With faint, expiring grief, the chief replies.

Vain boaster ! cease, and know the pow'rs d'vine ;  
 Jove's and Apollo's is this deed, not thine ;  
 To heav'n is ow'd whate'er your own you call, 1020  
 And heav'n itself disarm'd me er' my fall.  
 Had twenty mortals each thy match in might,  
 Oppos'd me fairly, they had sunk in fight :  
 By fate and P.œbus was I first o'erthrown,  
 Euphorbus next ; the third mean part thy own. 1025  
 But thou, imperious ! hear my latest breath ;  
 The Gods inspire it, and it sounds thy death.  
 Insulting man, thou shalt be soon, as I ;  
 Black fate hangs o'er thee, and thy hour draws nigh ;  
 Ev'n now on life's last verge I see thee stand, 1030  
 I see thee fall, and by Achilles' hand.

## 108 HOMER's ILIAD. Book XVI.

He faints; the soul unwilling wings her way,  
 (The beauteous body left a load of clay),  
 Flits to the lone, uncomfortable coast;  
 A naked, wand'ring, melancholy ghost! 1035

Then Hector pausing, as his eyes he fed  
 On the pale carcase, thus address'd the dead.  
 From whence this boding speech, the stern decree  
 O death denounc'd, or why denounc'd to me?  
 Why not as well Achilles' fate be giv'n 1040  
 To Hector's lance? Who knows the will of heav'n?

Pensive he said; then pressing as he lay  
 His breathless bosom, tore the lance away;  
 And upwards cast the corpse: the reeking spear  
 He shakes, and charges the bold charioteer. 1045  
 But swift Automedon with loosen'd reins  
 Rapt in the chariot o'er the distant plains,  
 Far from his rage th' immortal coursers drove  
 Th' immortal coursers were the gift of Jove.





T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K XVII.

T H E A R G U M E N T.

The seventh battle, for the body of Patroclus; the acts of Menelaus.

*Menelaus, upon the death of Patroclus, defends his body from the enemy: Euphorbus, who attempts it, is slain. Hector advancing, Menelaus retires; but soon returns with Ajax, and drives him off. This Glaucus objects to Hector as a flight, who thereupon puts on the armour he had won from Patroclus, and renewes the battle. The Greeks give way, till Ajax rallies them: Æneas sustains the Trojans. Æneas and Hector attempt the chariot of Achilles, which is born off by Automedon. The horses of Achilles deplore the loss of Patroclus: Jupiter covers his body with a thick darkness: the noble prayer of Ajax on that occasion. Menelaus sends Antilochus to Achilles, with the news of Patroclus's death. then returns to the fight, where, though attacked with the utmost fury, he and Meriones, assisted by the Ajaxes, bear off the body to the ships.*

The time is the evening of the eight and twentieth day.

The scene lies in the fields before Troy.

**O**N the cold earth divine Patroclus spread,  
Lies pierc'd with wounds among the vulgar dead :  
Great Menelaus, touch'd with gen'rous wo,  
Springs to the front, and guards him from the foe :  
Thus round her new fall'n young, the heifer moves, 5  
Fruit of her throes, and first born of her loves ;  
And anxious, (helpless as he lies, and bare),  
Turns, and re-turns her, with a mother's care,  
Oppos'd to each that near the carcase came,  
His broad shield glimmers, and his lances flame. 10

The son of Panthus skil'd the dart to fend,  
Eyes the dead hero, and insults the friend.  
This hand, Atrides, laid Patroclus low ;  
Warrior ! desist, nor tempt an equal blow :  
To me the spoils my prowess won, resign ; 15  
Depart with life, and leave the glory mine.

The Trojan thus : the Spartan monarch bura'd  
With gen'rous anguish, and in scorn return'd.  
Laugh'st thou not, Jove ! from thy superior throne,  
When mortals boast of prowess not their own ? 20  
Not thus the lion glories in his might,  
Nor panther braves his spotted foe in fight,  
Nor thus the boar (those terrors of the plain) ;  
Man only vaunts his force, and vaunts in vain.  
But far the vainest of the boastful kind 25  
These sons of Panthus vent their haughty mind.  
Yet 'twas but late, beneath my conqu'ring steel  
This boaster's brother, Hyperenor, fell,  
Against our arm, which rashly he defy'd,  
Vain was hi's vigour, and as vain his pride. 30  
These eyes beheld him on the dust expire,  
No more to cheer his spouse, or glad his fire.  
Presumptuous youth ! like his shall be thy doom,  
Go, wait thy brother to the Stygian gloom ;

Book XVII. HOMER's ILIAD. 111

Or while thou may'st, avoid the threaten'd fate; 35  
Fools stay to feel it, and are wise too late.

Unmov'd, Euphorbus thus: That action known,  
Come, for my brother's blood repay thy own.  
His weeping father claims thy destin'd head,  
And spouse, a widow in her bridal bed. 40  
On these thy conquer'd spoils I shall bestow,  
To sooth a consort's and a parent's wo.  
No longer then defer the glorious strife,  
Let heav'n decide our fortune, fame, and life.

Swift as the word the miss'le lance he flings, 45  
The well-aim'd weapon on the buckler rings,  
But blunted by the brass innoxious falls.  
On Jove the father, great Aries calls;  
Nor flies the jav'lin from his arm in vain,  
It pierc'd his throat, and bent him to the plain: 50  
Wide through the neck appears the grisly wound,  
Pron: sinks the warrior, and his arms resound.  
The shining circlets of his golden hair,  
Which ev'n the graces might be proud to wear,  
Instarr'd with gems and gold, bestrow the shore, 55  
With dust dishonour'd, and deform'd with gore.

As the young olive, in some sylvan scene,  
Crown'd by fresh fountains with eternal green,  
Lifts the gay head, in snowy flow'rets fair,  
And plays and dances to the gentle air; 60  
When lo! a whirlwind from high heav'n invades  
The tender plant, and wither's all its shades:  
It lies uprooted from its genial bed,  
A lovely ruin now defac'd and dead.  
Thus young, thus beautiful, Euphorbus lay, 65  
While the fierce Spartan tore his arms away.  
Proud of his deed, and glorious in the prize,  
Affrighted Troy the tow'ring victor flies:  
Flies, as before some mountain lion's ire  
The village curs, and trembling swains retire; 70

When o'er the slaughter'd bull they hear him roar,  
And see his jaws distil with smoaking gore;  
All pale with fear, at distance scatter'd round,  
They shout incessant, and the vales resound.

Meanwhile Apollo view'd with envious eyes, 75  
And urg'd great Hector to dispute the prize,  
(In Mentes shape, beneath whose martial care  
The rough Ciconians learn'd the trade of war):  
Forbear (he cry'd) with fruitless speed to chase  
Achilles' coursers, of æthereal race; 80  
They stoop not, these, to mortal man's command,  
Or stoop to none but great Achilles' hand.  
Too long amus'd with a pursuit so vain,  
Turn, and behold the brave Euphorbus slain!  
By Sparta slain! for ever now suppress 85  
The fire which burn'd in that undaunted breast!

Thus having spoke, Apollo wing'd his flight,  
And mix'd with mortals in the toils of fight:  
His words infix'd unutterable care  
Deep in great Hector's soul: through all the war 90  
He darts his anxious eye; and instant, view'd  
The breathless hero in his blood imbru'd,  
(Forth welling from the wound, as prone he lay),  
And in the victor's hands the shining prey.  
Sheath'd in bright arms, through cleaving ranks he flies, 95  
And sends his voice in thunder to the skies:  
Fierce as a flood of flame by Vulcan sent,  
It flew, and fir'd the nations as it went.  
Atrides from the voice the storm divin'd,  
And thus explor'd his own unconquer'd mind. 100

Then shall I quit Patroclus on the plain,  
Slain in my cause, and for my honour slain?  
Desert the arms, the relics of my friend?  
Or singly, Hector and his troops attend?  
Sure where such partial favour heav'n bestow'd, 105  
To brave the hero were to brave the God:

Forgive me, Greece, if once I quit the field :  
 'Tis not to Hector, but to heav'n I yield.  
 Yet, nor the God, nor heav'n, should give me fear,  
 Did but the voice of Ajax reach my ear : 110  
 Still would we turn, still battle on the plains,  
 And give Achilles all that yet remains  
 Of his and our Patroclus—This, no more,  
 The time allow'd : Troy thicken'd on the shore,  
 A fable scene ! The terrors Hector led. 115  
 Slow he recedes, and sighing, quits the dead.

So from the fold th' unwilling lion parts,  
 Forc'd by loud clamours, and a storm of darts ;  
 He flies indeed, but threatens as he flies,  
 With heart indignant and retorted eyes. 120  
 Now enter'd in the Spartan ranks, he turn'd  
 His manly breast, and with new fury burn'd,  
 O'er all the black battalions sent his view,  
 And through the cloud the godlike Ajax knew ;  
 Where lab'ring on the left the warrior stood, 125  
 All grim in arms, and cover'd o'er with blood,  
 There breathing courage, where the God of day  
 Had funk each heart with terror and dismay.

To him the king. Oh Ajax, oh my friend !  
 Haste, and Patroclus' lov'd remains defend : 130  
 The body to Achilles to restore,  
 Demands our care ; alas, we can no more !  
 For naked now, despoil'd of arms he lies ;  
 And Hector glories in the dazzling prize.  
 He said, and touch'd his heart. The raging pair 135  
 Pierce the thick battle, and provoke the war.  
 Already had stern Hector seiz'd his head,  
 And doom'd to Trojan dogs th' unhappy dead ;  
 But soon (as Ajax rear'd his tow'r like shield)  
 Sprung to his car, and measur'd back the field. 140  
 His train to Troy the radiant armour bear,  
 To stand a trophy of his fame in war.

Meanwhile great Ajax (his broad shield display'd)  
 Guards the dead hero with the dreadful shade;  
 And now before, and now behind he stood:      145  
 Thus in the centre of some gloomy wood,  
 With many a step the lioness surrounds  
 Her tawny young, beset by men and hounds;  
 Elate her heart, and rousing all her pow'rs,  
 Dark o'er the fiery balls each hanging eye brow lours.  
 Fast by his side, the gen'rous Spartan glows      151  
 With great revenge, and feeds his inward woes.

But Glaucus, leader of the Lycian aids,  
 On Hector frowning, thus his flight upbraids.  
 Where now in Hector shall we Hector find?      155  
 A manly form, without a manly mind.  
 Is this, O chief! a hero's boasted fame?  
 How vain, without the merit, is the name?  
 Since battle is renounct'd, thy thoughts employ  
 What other methods may preserve thy Troy:      160  
 'Tis time to try if Ilion's state can stand  
 By thee alone, nor ask a foreign hand;  
 Mean, empty boast! but shall the Lycians flake  
 Their lives for you? those Lycians you forsake?  
 What from thy thankles arms can we expect?      165  
 Thy friend Sarpedon proves thy base neglect:  
 Say, shall our slaughter'd bodies guard your walls,  
 While unreveng'd the great Sarpedon falls?  
 Ev'n where he dy'd for Troy, you left him there,  
 A feast for dogs, and all the fowls of air.      170  
 On my command if any Lycian wait,  
 Hence let him march, and give up Troy to fate.  
 Did such a spirit as the Gods impart  
 Impel one Trojan hand, or Trojan heart;  
 (Such, as should burn in ev'ry soul, that draws      175  
 The sword for glory, and his country's cause;  
 Ev'n yet our mutual arms we might employ,  
 And drag yon carcase to the walls of Troy.

Oh! were Patroclus ours, we might obtain  
Sarpedon's arms, and honour'd corse again ! 180  
Greece with Achilles' friend should be repaid,  
And thus due honours purchas'd to his shade.  
But words are vain—Let Ajax once appear,  
And Hector trembles and recedes with fear ;  
Thou dar'st not meet the terrors of his eye ; 185  
And lo ! already thou prepar'st to fly.

The Trojan chief with fix'd resentment ey'd  
The Lycian leader, and sedate reply'd.

Say, is it just (my friend) that Hector's ear  
From such a warrior such a speech should hear ? 190  
I deem'd thee once the wisest of thy kind,  
But ill this insult suits a prudent mind.  
I shun great Ajax ! I desert my train !  
'Tis mine to prove the rash assertion vain ;  
I joy to mingle where the battle bleeds, 195  
And hear the thunder of the sounding steeds.  
But Jove's high will is ever uncontroll'd,  
The strong he withers, and confounds the bold ;  
Now crowns with fame the mighty man, and now  
Strikes the fresh garland from the victor's brow ! 200  
Come, through yon squadrons let us hew the way,  
And thou be witness, if I fear to day ;  
If yet a Greek the sight of Hector dread,  
Or yet their hero dare defend the dead.

Then turning to the martial hosts, he cries, 205  
Ye Trojans, Dardans, Lycians, and allies !  
Be men (my friends) in action as in name,  
And yet be mindful of your ancient fame.  
Hector in proud Achilles' arms shall shine,  
Torn from his friend, by right of conquest mine. 210

He strode along the field, as thus he said :  
(The sable plumage nodded o'er his head) :  
Swift through the spacious plain he sent a look ;  
One instant saw, one instant overtook

## 116 HOMER's ILIAD. Book XVII.

The distant band; that on the sandy shore 215  
 The radiant spoils to sacred Ilion bore.

There his own mail unbrace'd the field bestrow'd;  
 His train to Troy convey'd the massy load.  
 Now blazing in th' immortal arms he stands,  
 The work and present of celestial hands; 220  
 By aged Peleus to Achilles giv'n,  
 As first to Peleus by the court of heav'n:  
 His father's arms not long Achilles wears,  
 Forbid by fate to reach his father's years.

Him, proud in triumph glitt'ring from afar, 225  
 The God whose thunder rends the troubled air,  
 Beheld with pity; as apart he sat,  
 And conscious, look'd through all the scene of fate.  
 He shock the sacred honours of his head;  
 Olympus trembled, and the Godhead said: 230

Ah wretched man! unmindful of thy end!  
 A moment's glory! and what fates attend?  
 In heav'nly panoply divinely bright  
 Thou stand'st, and armies tremble at thy sight,  
 As at Achilles' self! beneath thy dart 235  
 Lies slain the great Achilles' dearer part:  
 Thou from the mighty dead those arms hast torn,  
 Which once the greatest of mankind had worn.  
 Yet live! I give thee one illustrious day,  
 A blaze of glory ere thou fad'st away. 240  
 For ah! no more Andromache shall come,  
 With joyful tears to welcome Hector home;  
 No more officious, with endearing charms,  
 From thy tir'd limbs unbrace Pelides' arms!

Then with his fable brow he gave the nod, 245  
 That seals his word; the sanction of the God.  
 The stubborn arms (by Jove's command dispos'd)  
 Conform'd spontaneous, and around him clos'd;  
 Fill'd with the God, enlarg'd his members grew,  
 Through all his veins a sudden vigour flew, 250

Book XVII. HOMER'S ILIAD. 187

The blood in brisker tides began to roll,  
And Mars himself came rushing on his soul.  
Exhorting loud through all the field he strode,  
And look'd, and mov'd, Achilles, or a God.  
Now Mesthles, Glaucus, Medon he inspires,      255  
Now Phorcys, Chromius, and Hippothous fires ;  
The great Thersilochus like fury found,  
Asteropæus kindled at the sound,  
And Ennomus, in augury renown'd.

Hear, all ye hosts, and hear, unnumber'd bands      260  
Of neighb'ring nations, or of distant lands !  
'Twas not for state we summon'd you so far,  
To boast our numbers, and the pomp of war ;  
Ye came to fight ; a valiant foe to chase,  
To fave our present, and our future race.      265

For this, our wealth, our products you enjoy,  
And glean the relics of exhausted Troy.

Now then to conquer or to die prepare,  
To die or conquer, are the terms of war.

Whatever hand shall win Patroclus slain,      270  
Whoe'er shall drag him to the Trojan train,  
With Hector's self shall equal honours claim ;  
With Hector part the spoil, and share the fame.

Fir'd by his words, the troops dismiss their fears,  
They join, they thicks<sup>o</sup>, they pretend their spears ;  
Full on the Greeks they drive in firm array,      276  
And each from Ajax hopes the glorious prey :  
Vain hope ! what numbers shall the field o'erspread,  
What victims perish round the mighty dead ?

Great Ajax mark'd the growing storm from far, 280  
And thus bespeak his brother of the war.  
Our fatal day, alas ! is come, (my friend),  
And all our wars and glories at an end !  
'Tis not this corse alone we guard in vain,  
Condemn'd to vultures on the Trojan plain ;      285

## 118 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XVII.

We too must yield ; the same sad fate must fall

On thee, on me, perhaps (my friend) on all.

See what a tempest direful Hector spreads,

And lo ! it bursts, it thunders on our heads !

Call on our Greeks, if any hear the call,

290

The bravest Greeks ; this hour demands them all.

The warrior rais'd his voice, and wide around

The field re-echo'd the distressful sound.

Oh chiefs ! oh princes ! to whose hand is giv'n

The rule of men ; whose glory is from heav'n ! 295

Whom with due honours both Atrides grace ;

Ye guides and guardians of our Argive race !

All, whom this well known voice shall reach from far,

All, whom I see not through this cloud of war ;

Come all ! let gen'rous rage your arms employ, 300

And save Patroclus from the dogs of Troy.

Oilean Ajax first the voice obey'd,

Swift was his pace, and ready was his aid ;

Next him Idomeneus, more slow with age,

And Merion, burning with a hero's rage. 305

The long, succeeding numbers who can name ?

But all were Greeks, and eager all for fame.

Fierce to the charge great Hector led the throng ;

Whole Troy embodied, rush'd with shouts along.

Thus, when a mountain-billow foams and raves, 310

Where some swoln river disembogues his waves,

Full in the mouth is stopp'd the rushing tide,

The boiling ocean works from side to side,

The river trembles to its utmost shore,

And distant rocks rebeelow to the roar. 315

Nor less resolv'd, the firm Achaian band

With brazen shields in horrid circle stand :

Jove, pouring darknes o'er the mingled fight,

Conceals the warriors shining helms in night :

To him, the chief for whom the hosts contend, 320

Had liv'd not hateful, for he liv'd a friend :

Dead he protects him with superior care,  
Nor dooms his carcase to the birds of air.

The first attack the Grecians scarce sustain,  
Repuls'd, they yield; the Trojans seize the slain: 325  
Then fierce they rally, to revenge led on  
By the swift rage of Ajax Telamon;  
(Ajax to Peleus' son the second name,  
In graceful stature next, and next in fame.)  
With headlong force the foremost ranks he tore: 330  
So through the thicket bursts the mountain-boar,  
And rudely scatters, far to distance round,  
The frightened hunter and the baying hound.  
The son of Lethus, brave Pelasgus' heir,  
Hippothous, dragg'd the carcase through the war; 335  
The sinew ancles bor'd, the feet he bound  
With thongs, inserted through the double wound:  
Inevitable fate o'ertakes the deed;  
Doom'd by great Ajax' vengeful lance to bleed;  
It cleft the helmet's brazen cheeks in twain; 340  
The shatter'd crest, and horse hair strow the plain:  
With nerves relax'd he tumbles to the ground:  
The brain comes gushing through the ghastly wound:  
He drops Patroclus' foot, and o'er him spread  
Now lies, a sad companion of the dead: 345  
Far from Larissa lies, his native air,  
And ill requites his parent's tender care.  
Lamented youth! in life's first bloom he fell,  
Sent by great Ajax to the shades of hell.  
Once more at Ajax, Hector's javlin flies; 350  
The Grecian, marking as it cut the skies,  
Shunn'd the descending death; which hissing on,  
Stretch'd in the dust the great Iphytus' son,  
Schedius the brave, of all the Phocian kind  
The boldest warrior, and the noblest mind: 355  
In little Panope for strength renown'd,  
He held his seat, and rul'd the realms around.

## 320 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XVII.

Plung'd in his throat, the weapon drank his blood,  
And deep transpiercing, through the shoulder stood ;  
In clang ing arms the hero fell, and all 360  
The fields resounded with his weighty fall.  
Phorcys, as slain Hippothous he defends,  
The Telamonian lance his belly rends ;  
The hollow armour burst before the stroke,  
And thro' the wound the rushing entrails broke. 265  
In strong convulsions panting on the sands  
He lies, and grasps the dust with dying hands.

Struck at the sight, recede the Trojan train :  
The shouting Argives strip the heroes slain.  
And now had Troy, by Greece compell'd to yield, 370  
Fled to her ramparts, and resign'd the field ;  
Greece, in her native fortitude elate,  
With Jove averse, had turn'd the scale of fate :  
But Phœbus urg'd Æneas to the fight ;  
He seem'd like aged Periphæs to fight : 375  
(A herald in Anchises' love grown old,  
Rever'd for prudence, and with prudence, bold).

Thus he—What methods yet, oh chief ! remain,  
To save your Troy, though heav'n its fall ordain ?  
There have been heroes, who by virtuous care, 380  
By valour, numbers, and by arts of war,  
Have forc'd the pow'rs to spare a sinking state,  
And gain at length the glorious odds of fate.  
But you, when fortune smiles, when Jove declares  
His partial favour, and assists your wars, 385  
Your shameful efforts 'gainst yourselves employ,  
And force th' unwilling God to ruin Troy.

Æneas through the form assum'd descries  
The pow'r conceal'd, and thus to Hector cries.  
Oh lasting shame ! to our own fears a prey, 390  
We seek our ramparts, and desert the day.  
A God (nor is he less) my bosom warms,  
And tells me, Jove asserts the Trojan arms.

He spoke, and foremost to the combat flew :  
 The bold example all his hosts pursue. 395  
 Then first, Leocritus beneath him bled,  
 In vain belov'd by valiant Lycomedes ;  
 Who view'd his fall, and grieving at the chance,  
 Swift to revenge it, sent his angry lance :  
 The whirling lance, with vig'rous force address'd, 405  
 Descends, and pants in Apisaon's breast :  
 From rich Pæonia's vales the warrior came,  
 Next thee, Asteropeus ! in place and fame.  
 Asteropeus with grief beheld the slain,  
 And rush'd to combat, but he rush'd in vain : 415  
 Indissolubly firm, around the dead,  
 Rank within rank, on buckler buckler spread,  
 And hemm'd with bristled spears, the Grecians stood ;  
 A brazen bulwark, and an iron wood.  
 Great Ajax eyes them with incessant care, 420  
 And in an orb contracts the crowded war,  
 Close in their ranks commands to fight or fall,  
 And stands the centre and the soul of all :  
 Fix'd on the spot they war, and wounded, wound ;  
 A sanguine torrent steepes the reeking ground ; 425  
 On heaps the Greeks, on heaps the Trojans bleed,  
 And thick'ning round them, rise the hills of dead.

Greece, in close order, and collected might,  
 Yet suffers least, and sways the wav'ring fight ;  
 Fierce as conflicting fires, the combat burns, 430  
 And now it rises, now it sinks by turns.  
 In one thick darkness all the fight was lost ;  
 The sun, the moon, and all th'æthereal host  
 Seem'd as extinct : day ravish'd from their eyes,  
 And all heav'n's splendours blotted from the skies. 435  
 Such o'er Patroclos' body hung the night,  
 The rest in sunshine fought, and open light :  
 Unclouded there, th'æreal azure spread,  
 No vapour rested on the mountain's head,

The golden sun pour'd forth a stronger ray, 430  
 And all the broad expansion flam'd with day.  
 Dispers'd around the plain, by fits they fight,  
 And here, and there, their scatter'd arrows light :  
 But death and darkness o'er the carcase spread,  
 There burnt the war, and there the mighty bled. 435

Meanwhile the sons of Nestor in the rear,  
 (Their fellows routed), toss the distant spear,  
 And skirmish wide : so Nestor gave command,  
 When from the ships he sent the Pylian band.  
 The youthful brothers thus for fame contend, 440  
 Nor knew the fortune of Achilles' friend ;  
 In thought they view'd him still, with martial joy,  
 Glorious in arms, and dealing deaths to Troy.

But round the corse, the heroes pant for breath,  
 And thick and heavy grows the work of death : 445  
 O'erlabour'd now, with dust, and sweat, and gore,  
 Their knees, their legs, their feet are cover'd o'er ;  
 Drops follow drops, the clouds on clouds arise,  
 And carnage clogs their hands, and darkness fills their eyes.

As when a slaughter'd bull's yet reeking hide, 450  
 Strain'd with full force, and tugg'd from side to side,  
 The brawny curriers stretch ; and labour o'er,  
 Th' extended surface, drunk with fat and gore ;  
 So tugging round the corse both armies stood;  
 The mangled body bath'd in sweat and blood : 455  
 While Greeks and Ilians equal strength employ,  
 Now to the ships to force it, now to Troy.  
 Not Pallas' self, her breast when fury warms,  
 Nor he, whose anger sets the world in arms,  
 Could blame this scene ; such rage, such horror reign'd ;  
 Such, Jove to honour the great dead ordain'd. 461

Achilles in his ships at distance lay,  
 Nor knew the fatal fortune of the day ;

Book XVII. HOMER'S ILIAD. 123

He, yet unconscious of Patroclus' fall,  
In dust extended under Ilion's wall, 465  
Expects him glorious from the conquer'd plain,  
And for his wish'd return prepares in vain ;  
Though well he knew, to make proud Ilion bend,  
Was more than heav'n had destin'd to his friend,  
Perhaps to him : this Thetis had reveal'd ; 470  
The rest, in pity to her son, conceal'd.

Still rag'd the conflict round the hero dead,  
And heaps on heaps, by mutual wounds they bled.  
Curs'd be the man (ev'n private Greeks would say)  
Who dares desert this well-disputed day ! 475  
First may the cleaving earth before our eyes  
Gape wide, and drink our blood for sacrifice !  
First perish all, ere haughty Troy shall boast  
We lost Patroclus, and our glory lost.

Thus they. While with one voice the Trojans said,  
Grant this day, Jove ! or heap us on the dead ! 481

Then clash their sounding arms ; the clangours rise,  
And shake the brazen concave of the skies.

Meantime, at distance from the scene of blood,  
The pensive steeds of great Achilles stood ; 485  
Their godlike master slain before their eyes,  
They wept, and shar'd in human miseries.  
In vain Automedon now shakes the rein,  
Now plies the lash, and sooths and threats in vain ;  
Ner to the fight, nor Hellespont they go, 490  
Reitive they stood, and obstinate in wo :  
Still as a tomb-stone, never to be mov'd,  
On some good man, or woman unreprov'd,  
Lays its eternal weight ; or fix'd, as stands  
A marble courier by the sculptor's hands, 495  
Plac'd on the hero's grave. Along their face,  
The big round drops cours'd down with silent pace,  
Conglobing on the dust. Their manes, that late  
Circled their arched necks, and wav'd in state,

Trail'd on the dust beneath the yoke were spread, 500  
 And prone to earth was hung their languid head:  
 Nor Jove disdain'd to cast a pitying look,  
 While thus relenting to the steeds he spoke.

Unhappy coursers of immortal strain !  
 Exempt from age, and deathless now in vain ; 505  
 Did we your race on mortal man bestow,  
 Only, alas ! to share in mortal wo ?  
 For ah ! what is there, of inferior birth,  
 That breathes or creeps upon the dust of earth ;  
 What wretched creature of what wretched kind, 510  
 Than man more weak, calamitous, and blind ?  
 A miserable race ! but cease to mourn :  
 For not by you shall Priam's son be born  
 High on the splendid car : one glorious prize  
 He rashly boasts : the rest our will denies. 515  
 Ourselves will swiftness to your nerves impart,  
 Ourselves with rising spirits swell your heart.  
 Automedon your rapid flight shall bear  
 Safe to the navy through the storm of war.  
 For yet 'tis giv'n to Troy, to ravage o'er 520  
 The field, and spread her slaughter to the shore ;  
 The sun shall see her conquer, till his fall  
 With sacred darkness shades the face of all.

He said ; and breathing in th'immortal horse  
 Excessive spirit, urg'd them to the course ; 525  
 From their high manes they shake the dust, and bear  
 The kindling chariot through the parted war :  
 So flies a vulture through the clam'rous train  
 Of geese, that scream, and scatter round the plain.  
 From danger now with swiftest speed they flew, 530  
 And now to conquest with like speed pursue :  
 Sole in the seat the charioteer remains,  
 Now plies the jav'lin, now directs the reins :  
 Him brave Alcimedon beheld distrest,  
 Approach'd the chariot, and the chief address. 535

What God provokes thee, rashly thus to dare,  
Alone, unaided, in the thickest war?  
Alas! thy friend is slain, and Hector wields  
Achilles' arms triumphant in the fields.

In happy time (the charioteer replies) 540  
The bold Alcimedon now greets my eyes :  
No Greek like him, the heavily steeds restrains,  
Or holds their fury in suspended reins :  
Patroclus, while he liv'd, their rage could tame,  
But now Patroclus is an empty name ! 545  
To thee I yield the seat, to thee resign  
The ruling charge : the task of fight be mine.

He said. Alcimedon, with active heat,  
Snatches the reins, and vaults into the seat.  
His friend descends. The chief of Troy descriy'd, 550  
And call'd Æneas fighting near his side.  
Lo, to my fight beyond our hope restor'd,  
Achilles' car, deserted of its lord !  
The glorious steeds our ready arms invite,  
Scarce their weak drivers guide them thro' the fight :  
Can such opponents stand, when we assail ? 555  
Unite thy force, my friend, and we prevail.

The son of Venus to the counsel yields ;  
Then o'er their backs they spread their solid shields ;  
With brass resplendent the broad surface shin'd, 560  
And thick bull hides the spacious concave lin'd.  
Them Cromius follows, Aretus succeeds,  
Each hopes the conquest of the lofty steeds ;  
In vain, brave youths, with glorious hopes ye burn,  
In vain advance ! not fated to return. 565

Unmov'd, Automedon attends the fight,  
Implores th' Eternal, and collects his might.  
Then turning to his friend, with dauntless mind :  
Oh keep the foaming coursers close behind !  
Full on my shoulders let their nostrils blow, 570  
For hard the fight, determin'd is the foe ;

## 126 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XVII.

'Tis Hector comes ; and when he seeks the prize,  
War knows no mean : he wins it, or he dies.

Then through the field he sends his voice aloud,  
And calls th'Ajaces from the warring croud, 575  
With great Atrides. Hither turn, (he said),  
Turn, where distress demands immediate aid ;  
The dead, encircled by his friends, forego,  
And save the living from a fiercer foe,  
Unhelp'd we stand, unequal to engage 580  
The force of Hector, and Æneas' rage :  
Yet mighty as they are, my force to prove  
Is only mine : th'event belongs to Jove.

He spoke, and high the sounding jav'lin flung,  
Which pass'd the shield of Aretus the young ; 585  
It pierc'd his belt, emboss'd with curious art ;  
Then in the lower belly stuck the dart.  
As when a pond'rous axe descending full,  
Cleaves the broad forehead of some brawny bull ;  
Struck 'twixt the horns, he springs with many a bound, 591  
Then tumbling rolls enormous on the ground :  
Thus fell the youth ; the air his soul receiv'd,  
And the spear trembled as his entrails heav'd.

Now at Automedon the Trojan foe  
Discharg'd his lance ; the meditated blow, 595  
Stooping, he shunn'd, the jav'lin idly fled,  
And hiss'd innoxious o'er the hero's head :  
Deep rooted in the ground, the forceful spear  
In long vibrations spent its fury there.  
With clashing faulchions now the chiefs had clos'd,  
But each brave Ajax heard, and interpos'd ; 601  
Nor longer Hector with his Trojans stood,  
But left their slain companion in his blood :  
His arms Automedon divests, and cries,  
Accept, Patroclus, this mean sacrifice. 605  
Thus have I sooth'd my griefs, and thus have paid,  
Poor as it is, some off'ring to thy shade.

So looks the lion o'er a mangled boar,  
All grim with rage, and horrible with gore;  
High on the chariot at one bound he sprung,      610  
And o'er his seat the bloody trophies hung.

And now Minerva from the realms of air  
Descends impetuous, and renews the war;  
For, pleas'd at length the Grecian arms to aid,  
**T**he Lord of thunders sent the blue-ey'd maid.      615  
As when high Jove denouncing future woe,  
O'er the dark clouds extends his purple bow,  
(In sign of tempests from the troubled air,  
Or from the rage of man, destructive war),  
The drooping cattle dread th' impending skies,      620  
And from his half till'd field the lab'rer flies.

In such a form the Goddess round her drew  
A livid cloud, and to the battle flew.

Assuming Phœnix' shape, on earth she falls,  
And in his well known voice to Sparta calls:      625  
And lies Achilles' friend, belov'd by all,  
A prey to dogs beneath the Trojan wall?  
What shame to Greece for future times to tell,  
**T**o thee the greatest in whose cause he fell!

Oh chief! oh father! (Atreus' son replies),      630  
Oh full of days! by long experience wise!  
What more desires my soul, then here unmov'd  
To guard the body of the man I lov'd?  
Ah would Minerva send me strength to rear  
This weary'd arm, and ward the storm of war!      635  
But Hector, like the rage of fire we dread,  
And Jove's own glories blaze around his head.

Pleas'd to be first of all the pow'rs address'd,  
She breathes new vigour in her hero's breast,  
And fills with keen revenge, with fell despight,      640  
Desire of blood, and rage, and lust of fight.  
So burns the vengeful hornet, (soul all o'er),  
Repuls'd in vain, and thirsty still of gore;

(Bold son of Air and Heat), on angry wings  
Untam'd, untir'd, he turns, attacks, and stings. 645  
Fir'd with like ardour fierce Atrides flew,  
And sent his soul with ev'ry lance he threw.

There stood a Trojan, not unknown to fame,  
Eetion's son, and Podes was his name ;  
With riches honour'd, and with courage blest, 650  
By Hector lov'd, his comrade, and his guest ;  
Through his broad belt the spear a passage found,  
And pond'rous as he falls, his arms resound.  
Sudden at Hector's side Apollo stood,  
Like Phænops, Asius' son, appear'd the God ; 655  
(Asius the great, who held his wealthy reign  
In fair Abydos, by the rolling main).

Oh prince, (he cry'd), oh foremost once in fame !  
What Grecian now shall tremble at thy name ?  
Dost thou at length to Menelaus yield, 660  
A chief once thought no terror of the field ;  
Yet singly, now, the long-disputed prize  
He bears victorious, while our army flies.  
By the same arm illustrious Podes bled ;  
The friend of Hector, unreveng'd, is dead ! 665  
This heard, o'er Hector spreads a cloud of wo,  
Rage lifts his lance, and drives him on the foe.

But now th' Eternal shook his sable shield,  
That shaded Ide, and all the subject field,  
Beneath its ample verge. A rolling cloud 670  
Involv'd the mount, the thunder roar'd aloud ;  
Th'affrighted hills from their foundations nod,  
And blaze beneath the lightnings of the God :  
At one regard of his all seeing eye,  
The vanquish'd triumph, and the victors fly. 675

Then trembled Greece : the flight Peneleus led :  
For as the brave Bœotian turn'd his head  
To face the foe, Polydamas drew near,  
And raz'd his shoulder with a shorten'd spear :

By Hector wounded, Leitus quits the plain, 680 }  
 Pierc'd thro' the wrist; and raging with the pain,  
 Grasps his once formidable lance in vain.

As Hector follow'd, Idomen address  
 The flaming jav'lin to his manly breast;  
 The brittle point before his corselet yields; 685  
 Exulting Troy with clamour fills the fields:  
 High on his chariot as the Cretan stood,  
 The son of Priam whirl'd the missive wood;  
 But erring from its aim, th' impetuous spear  
 Struck to the dust the squire and charioteer 690  
 Of martial Merion; Cœranus his name,  
 Who left fair Lyctus for the fields of fame.  
 On foot bold Merion fought; and now laid low,  
 Had grac'd the triumphs of his Trojan foe;  
 But the brave squire the ready coursers brought, 695  
 And with his life his masters safety bought.  
 Between his cheek and ear the weapon went,  
 The teeth it shatter'd, and the tongue it rent.  
 Prone from the seat he tumbles to the plain;  
 His dying hand forgets the falling rein: 700  
 This Merion reaches, bending from the car,  
 And urges to desert the hopeless war;  
 Idomeneus consents; the lash applies;  
 And the swift chariot to the navy flies.  
 Nor Ajax less the will of heav'n descry'd, 705  
 And conquest shifting to the Trojan side,  
 Turn'd by the hand of Jove. Then thus begun,  
 To Atreus' seed, the godlike Telamon.

Alas! who sees not Jove's almighty hand  
 Transfers the glory to the Trojan band? 710  
 Whether the weak or strong discharge the dart,  
 He guides each arrow to a Grecian heart:  
 Not so our spears: incessant though they rain,  
 He suffers ev'ry lance to fall in vain.

## 130 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XVII.

Deserted of the God, yet let us try 715  
 What human strength and prudence can supply ;  
 If yet this honour'd corse, in triumph born,  
 May glad the fleets that hope not our return,  
 Who tremble yet, scarce rescu'd from their fates,  
 And still hear Hector thund'ring at their gates. 720  
 Some hero too must be dispatch'd to bear  
 The mournful message to Pelides' ear ;  
 For sure he knows not, distant on the shore,  
 His friend, his lov'd Patroclus, is no more.  
 But such a chief I spy not through the host : 725  
 The men, the steeds, the armies, all are lost  
 In gen'ral darkness—Lord of earth and air !  
 Oh King ! oh Father ! hear my humble pray'r ;  
 Dispel this cloud, the light of heav'n restore ;  
 Give me to see, and Ajax asks no more : 730  
 If Greece must perish, we thy will obey,  
 But let us perish in the face of day !

With tears the hero spoke, and at his pray'r  
 The God relenting, clear'd the clouded air ;  
 Forth burst the sun with all enlight'ning ray ; 735  
 The blaze of armour flash'd against the day.  
 Now, now, Atrides ! cast around thy sight,  
 It yet Antilochus survives the fight,  
 Let him to great Achilles' ear convey  
 The fatal news—Atrides hastens away. 740  
 So turns the lion from the nightly fold,  
 Though high in courage, and with hunger bold,  
 Long gall'd by herdsmen, and long vex'd by hounds,  
 Stiff with fatigue, and fretted sore with wounds ;  
 The darts fly round him from an hundred hands, 745  
 And the red terrors of the blazing brands :  
 Till late, reluctant, at the dawn of day  
 Sour he departs, and quits th' untasted prey.  
 So mov'd Atrides from his dang'rous place,  
 With weary limbs, but with unwilling pace ; 750

Book XVII. HOMER's ILIAD. 131

The foe, he fear'd, might yet Patroclus gain,  
And much admonish'd, much adjur'd his train.

Oh guard these relics to your charge consign'd,  
And bear the merits of the dead in mind ;  
How skill'd he was in each obliging art ; 755  
The mildest manners, and the gentlest heart :  
He was, alas ! but fate decreed his end ;  
In death a hero, as in life a friend !

So parts the chief ; from rank to rank he flew,  
And round on all sides sent his piercing view, 760  
As the bold bird, endu'd with sharpest eye  
Of all that wing the mid aerial sky ;  
The sacred eagle, from his walks above  
Looks down, and sees the distant thicket move ;  
Then stoops, and swooping on the quiv'ring hare, 765  
Snatches his life amid the clouds of air.  
Not with less quickness, his exerted sight  
Pass'd this, and that way, through the ranks of fight :  
Till on the left the chief he sought, he found ;  
Cheering his men, and spreading deaths around. 770

To him the king. Belov'd of Jove ! draw near,  
For sadder tiding never touch'd thy ear ;  
Thy eyes have witness'd, what a fatal turn !  
How Ilion triumphs, and th' Achaians mourn,  
This is not all : Patroclus, on the shore 775  
Now pale and dead, shall succour Greece no more.  
Fly to the fleet, this instant fly, and tell  
The sad Achilles, how his lov'd one fell :  
He too may haste the naked corse to gain ;  
The arms are Hector's, who despoil'd the slain. 780

The youthful warrior heard with silent wo,  
From his fair eyes the tears began to flow ;  
Big with the mighty grief, he strove to say  
What sorrow dictates, but no word found way.  
To brave Laodocus his arms he flung, 785  
Who near him wheeling, drove his steeds along ;

Then ran, the mournful message to impart,  
With tearful eyes, and with dejected heart.

Swift fled the youth ; nor Menelaus stands  
(Though sore distress'd) to aid the Pylian bands ; 790  
But bids bold Thrasymede those troops sustain ;  
Himself returns to his Patroclus slain.  
Gone is Antilochus, (the hero said) ;  
But hope not, warriors, for Achilles' aid :  
Though fierce his rage, unbounded be his wo, 795  
Unarm'd, he fights not with the Trojan foe.  
'Tis in our hands alone our hopes remain,  
'Tis our own vigour must the dead regain ;  
And save ourselves, while with impetuous hate  
Troy pours along, and this way rolls our fate, 800  
'Tis well, (said Ajax), be it then thy care,  
With Merion's aid, the weighty corse to rear ;  
Myself and my bold brother will sustain  
The shock of Hector and his charging train :  
Nor fear we armies, fighting side by side ; 805  
What Troy can dare, we have already try'd,  
Have try'd it, and have stood. The hero said  
High from the ground the warriors heave the dead.  
A gen'ral clamour rises at the fight :  
Loud shout the Trojans, and renew the fight. 810  
Not fiercer rush along the gloomy wood,  
With rage infatiate and with thirst of blood,  
Voracious hounds, that many a length before  
Their furious hunters, drive the wounded boar ;  
But if the savage turns his glaring eye, 815  
They howl aloof, and round the forest fly.  
Thus on retreating Greece the Trojans pour,  
Wave their thick faulchions, and their jav'lins show'r :  
But Ajax turning, to their fears they yield,  
All pale they tremble, and forsake the field. 820  
While thus aloft the hero's corse they bear,  
Behind them rages all the storm of war ;

Confusion, tumult, horror, o'er the throng  
Of men, steeds, chariots, urg'd the rout along:  
Lefs fierce the winds with rising flames conspire, 825  
**To whelm some city under waves of fire;**  
Now sink in gloomy clouds the proud abodes;  
Now crack the blazing temples of the Gods;  
The rumbling torrent through the ruin rolls,  
And sheets of smoke mount heavy to the poles. 830  
The heroes sweat beneath their honour'd load:  
As when two mules, along the rugged road,  
From the steep mountain with exerted strength  
Drag some vast beam, or mast's unwieldy length:  
Inly they groan, big drops of sweat distil, 835  
**Th' enormous timber lumbering down the hill:**  
So these—Behind, the bulk of Ajax stands,  
And breaks the torrent of the rushing bands.  
Thus when a river swell'd with sudden rains,  
Spreads his broad waters o'er the level plains, 840  
Some interposing hill the stream divides,  
And breaks its force, and turns the winding tides,  
Still close they follow, close the rear engage:  
Æneas storms, and Hector foams with rage:  
While Greece a heavy, thick retreat maintains, 845  
Wedg'd in one body, like a flight of cranes,  
That shriek incessant while the falcon, hung  
High on pois'd pinions, threats their callow young.  
So from the Trojan chiefs the Grecians fly,  
Such the wild terror, and the mingled cry: 850  
Within, without the trench, and all the way,  
Strow'd in bright heaps, their arms and armour lay:  
Such horror Jove impress'd! yet still proceeds  
The work of death, and still the battle bleeds.



T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K XVIII.

T H E A R G U M E N T.

The grief of Achilles, and new armour made him by Vulcan.

*The news of the death of Patroclus is brought to Achilles by Antilochus. Thetis hearing his lamentations, comes with all her sea nymphs to comfort him. The speeches of the mother and son on this occasion. Iris appears to Achilles by the command of Juno, and orders him to shew himself at the head of the entrenchments. The sight of him turns the fortune of the day, and the body of Patroclus is carried off by the Greeks. The Trojans call a council, where Hector and Polydamas disagree in their opinions : but the advice of the former prevails, to remain incamped in the field ; the grief of Achilles over the body of Patroclus. Thetis goes to the palace of Vulcan to obtain new arms for her son. The description of the wonderful works of Vulcan ; and lastly, that noble one of the shield of Achilles.*

The latter part of the nine and twentieth day, and the night ensuing, take up this book. The scene is at Achilles's tent on the sea-shore, from whence it changes to the palace of Vulcan.

T<sub>H</sub>US like the rage of fire the combat burns,  
And now it rises, now it sinks by turns.  
Meanwhile, where Hellespont's broad waters flow,  
Stood Nestor's son, the messenger of wo :  
There sat Achilles, shaded by his sails, 5  
On hoisted yards extended to the gales ;  
Penive he sat ; for all that fate design'd  
Rose in sad prospect to his boding mind.  
Thus to his soul he said. Ah ! what constrains  
The Greeks, late victors, now to quit the plains ? 10  
Is this the day, which heav'n so long ago  
Ordain'd, to sink me with the weight of wo ?  
(So Thetis warn'd), when, by a Trojan hand,  
The bravest of the Myrmidonian band  
Should lose the light ? Fulfill'd is that decree ; 15  
Fall'n is the warrior, and Parroclus he !  
In vain I charg'd him soon to quit the plain,  
And warn'd to shun Hectorean force in vain !

Thus while he thinks, Antilochus appears,  
And tells the melancholy tale with tears. 20  
Sad tidings, son of Peleus ! thou must hear ;  
And wretched I, th' unwilling messenger !  
Dead is Patroclus ! For his corse they fight ;  
His naked corse ; his arms are Hector's right.

A sudden horror shot through all the chief, 25  
And wrapt his senses in a cloud of grief ;  
Cast on the ground, with furious hands he spread  
The scorching ashes o'er his graceful head ;  
His purple garments, and his golden hairs,  
Those he deforms with dust, and these he tears : 30

## 136 HOMER'S ILIA D. Book XVIII.

On the hard soil his groaning breast he threw,  
 And roll'd and grovel'd, as to earth he grew.  
 The virgin captives, with disorder'd charms,  
 (Won by his own, or by Patroclus' arms),  
 Rush'd from the tents with cries ; and gath'ring round,  
 Beat their white breasts, and fainted on the ground : 36  
 While Nestor's son sustains a manlier part,  
 And mourns the warrior with a warrior's heart ;  
 Hangs on his arms, amidst his frantic wo,  
 And oft prevents the meditated blow. 40

Far in the deep abysses of the main,  
 With hoary Nereus, and the wat'ry train,  
 The mother goddess from her crystal throne  
 Heard his loud cries, and answer'd groan for groan.  
 The circling Nereids with their mistress weep, 45  
 And all the sea-green sisters of the deep.  
 Thalia, Glauce, (ev'ry watry name),  
 Nesaea mild, and silver Spio came :  
 Cymothoe and Cymodoce were nigh,  
 And the blue languish of soft Alia's eye. 50  
 Their locks Actaea and Limnoria rear,  
 Then Proto, Doris, Panope appear,  
 Thoa, Pherusa, Doto, Melita ;  
 Agave gentle, and Amphitoe gay :  
 Next Callianira, Callianassa show 55  
 There sister looks ; Dexamene the slow,  
 And swift Dynamene, now cut the tides :  
 Iæra now the verdant wave divides :  
 Nemertes with Apseudes lifts the head,  
 Bright Galatea quits her pearly bed : 60  
 These Orythia, Clymene, attend,  
 Mæra, Amphinome, the train extend ;  
 And black Janira, and Janassa fair,  
 And Amatheia with her amber hair.  
 All these, and all that deep in ocean held 65  
 Their sacred seats, the glimm'ring grotto fill'd ;

Each beat her iv'ry breast with silent wo,  
Till Thetis' sorrows thus began to flow.

Hear me, and judge, ye sisters of the main !  
How just a cause has Thetis to complain ? 70  
How wretched, were I mortal, were my fate !  
How more than wretched in th'immortal state !  
Sprung from my bed a godlike hero came,  
The bravest far that ever bore the name ;  
Like some fair olive, by my careful hand 75  
He grew, he flourish'd, and adorn'd the land :  
To Troy I sent him ; but the fates ordain  
He never, never must return again.  
So short a space the light of heav'n to view,  
So short alas ! and fill'd with anguish too. 80  
Hear how his sorrows echo through the shore !  
I cannot ease them, but I must deplore ;  
I go at least to bear a tender part,  
And mourn my lov'd one with a mother's heart.

She said, and left the caverns of the main, 85  
All bath'd in tears ; the melancholy train  
Attend her way. Wide opening part the tides,  
While the long pomp the silver wave divides.  
Approaching now, they touch'd the Trojan land ;  
Then, two by two ascended up the strand. 90  
Th'immortal mother, standing close beside  
Her mournful offspring, to his sighs reply'd ;  
Along the coast their mingled clamours ran,  
And thus the silver footed dame began.

Why mourns my son ? thy late preferr'd request 95  
The God has granted, and the Greeks distract :  
Why mourns my son ? thy anguish let me share,  
Reveal the cause, and trust a parent's care.

He, deeply groaning — To this cureless grief  
Not ev'n the Thund'rer's favour brings relief. 100  
Patroclus — Ah ! — say, Goddess, can I boast  
A pleasure now ? revenge itself is lost ;

Patroclus, lov'd of all my martial train,  
Beyond mankind, beyond myself, is slain !  
Lost are those arms the Gods themselves bestow'd 105  
On Peleus ; Hector bears the glorious load.  
Curst be that day, when all the pow'rs above  
Thy charms submitted to a mortal love :  
Oh hadst thou still, a sister of the main,  
Pursu'd the pleasures of the wat'ry reign ; 110  
And happier Peleus, less ambitious, led  
A mortal beauty to his equal bed !  
Ere the sad fruit of thy unhappy womb  
Had caus'd such sorrows past, and woes to come.  
For soon, alas ! that wretched offspring slain, 115  
New woes, new sorrows shall create again.  
'Tis not in fate th' alternate now to give ;  
Patroclus dead, Achilles hates to live.  
Let me revenge it on proud Hector's heart,  
Let his last spirit smoke upon my dart ; 120  
On these conditions will I breathe : till then,  
I blush to walk among the race of men.  
A flood of tears, at this, the Goddess shed,  
Ah then, I see thee dying, see thee dead !  
When Hector falls, thou dy'st. Let Hector die, 125  
And let me fall ! (Achilles made reply.)  
Far lies Patroclus from his native plain !  
He fell, and falling, wish'd my aid in vain.  
Ah then, since from this miserable day  
I cast all hope of my return away, 130  
Since unrevenged, a hundred ghosts demand  
The fate of Hector from Achilles' hand ;  
Since here, for brutal courage far renown'd,  
I live an idle burden to the ground,  
(Others in council fam'd for nobler skill, 135  
More useful to preserve, than I to kill),  
Let me—But oh ! ye gracious pow'rs above !  
Wrath and revenge from men and Gods remove ;

Far, far too dear to ev'ry mortal breast,  
Sweet to the soul, as honey to the taste ;  
Gath'ring like vapours of a noxious kind  
From fiery blood, and dark'ning all the mind.  
Me Agamemnon urg'd to deadly hate ;  
'Tis past—I quell it; I resign to fate.

Yes — I will meet the murd'rer of my friend ; 145  
Or (if the Gods ordain it) meet my end.

The stroke of fate the bravest cannot shun :

The great Alcides, Jove's unequall'd son,  
To Juno's hate at length resign'd his breath,

And sunk the victim of all conqu'ring death. 150

So shall Achilles fall ! stretch'd pale and dead,  
No more the Grecian hope, or Trojan dread !

Let me, this instant, rush into the fields,  
And reap what glory life's short harvest yields.

Shall I not force some widow'd dame to tear 155  
With frantic hands her long dishevell'd hair ?

Shall I not force her breast to heave with sighs,  
And the soft tears to trickle from her eyes !

Yes, I shall give the fair those mournful charms—

In vain you hold me—Hence ! my arms, my arms !

Soon shall the sanguine torrent spread so wide, 161

That all shall know, Achilles swells the tide.

My son, (coerulean Thetis made reply,  
To fate submitting with a secret sigh,)

The host to succour, and thy friends to save, 165

Is worthy thee ; the duty of the brave.

But canst thou, naked, issue to the plains ?

Thy radiant arms the Trojan foe detains.

Insulting Hector bears the spoils on high,

But vainly glories, for his fate is nigh. 170

Yet, yet a while, thy gen'rous ardour stay ;

Affur'd, I meet thee at the dawn of day,

Charg'd with resplendent arms, (a glorious load),

Vulcanian arms, the labour of a God.

## 140 HOMER's ILIAD. Book XVIII.

Then turning to the daughters of the main, 175  
 The Goddess thus dismiss'd her azure train.

Ye sister Nereids ! to your deeps descend ;  
 Haste, and our father's sacred seat attend ;  
 I go to find the architect divine,  
 Where vast Olympus' starry summits shine : 180  
 So tell our hoary fire — This charge she gave :  
 The sea green sister plunge beneath the wave :  
 Thetis once more ascends the bless'd abodes,  
 And treads the brazen threshold of the Gods.

And now the Greeks, from furious Hector's force,  
 Urge to broad Hellespont their headlong course : 186  
 Nor yet their chiefs Patroclus's body bore  
 Safe through the tempest to the tented shore.  
 The horse, the foot, with equal fury join'd,  
 Pour'd on the rear, and thunder'd close behind : 190  
 And like a flame through fields of ripen'd corn,  
 The rage of Hector o'er the ranks was borne.  
 Thrice the slain hero by the foot he drew ;  
 Thrice to the skies the Trojan clamours flew :  
 As oft th' Ajaces his assault sustain ; 195  
 But check'd, he turns ; repuls'd, attacks again.  
 With fiercer shouts his ling'ring troops he fires,  
 Nor yields a step, nor from his post retires ;  
 So watchful shepherds strive to force, in vain,  
 The hungry lion from a carcase slain. 200  
 Ev'n yet Patroclus had he borne away,  
 And all the glories of th' extended day :  
 Had not high Juno, from the realms of air,  
 Secret, dispatch'd her trusty messenger.  
 The various Goddess of the show'ry bow, 205  
 Shot in a whirlwind to the shore below ;  
 To great Achilles at his ships she came,  
 And thus began the many-colour'd dame.  
 Rise, son of Peleus ! rise divinely brave !  
 Assist the combat, and Patroclus save : 210

For him the slaughter to the fleet they spread,  
And fall by mutual wounds around the dead.  
To drag him back to Troy the foe contends:  
Nor with his death the rage of Hector ends :  
A prey to dogs he dooms the corse to lie, 215  
And marks the place to fix his head on high.  
Rise, and prevent (if yet you think of fame)  
Thy friend's disgrace, thy own eternal shame !

Who sends thee, Goddess ! from th' æthereal skies ?  
Achilles thus. And Iris thus replies. 220

I come, Pelides ! from the queen of Jove,  
Th' immortal empress of the realms above ;  
Unknown to him who sits remote on high,  
Unknown to all the synod of the sky.  
Thou com'st in vain, he cries, (with fury warm'd, 225  
Arms I have none, and can I fight unarm'd ?  
Unwilling as I am, of force I stay,  
Till Thetis bring me at the dawn of day  
Vulcanian arms : what other can I wield ;  
Except the mighty Telamonion shield ? 230  
That, in my friend's defence, has Ajax spread,  
While his strong lance around him heaps the dead :  
The gallant chief defends Mœnetius' son,  
And does, what his Achilles should have done.

Thy want of arms (said Iris) well we know, 235  
But though unarm'd, yet clad in terrors, go !  
Let but Achilles o'er yon trench appear ;  
Proud Troy shall tremble, and consent to fear :  
Greece, from one glance of that tremendous eye,  
Shall take new courage, and disdain to fly. 240

She spoke, and pass'd in air. The hero rose ;  
Her ægis Pallas o'er his shoulder throws ;  
Around his brows a golden cloud she spread ;  
A stream of glory flam'd above his head.  
As when from some beleaguer'd town arise 245  
The smokes, high curling to the shaded skies ;

## 742 HOMER's ILIAD. Book XVIII.

(Seen from some island, o'er the main afar,  
When men distress'd hang out the sign of war);  
Soon as the sun in ocean hides his rays,  
Thick on the hills the flaming beacons blaze; 250  
With long projected beams the seas are bright,  
And heav'n's high arch reflects the ruddy light:  
So from Achilles' head the splendours rise,  
Reflecting blaze on blaze against the skies.  
Forth march'd the chief, and distant from the crowd,  
High on the rampart rais'd his voice aloud; 256  
With her own shout Minerva swells the sound;  
Troy starts astonish'd, and the shores rebound.  
As the loud trumpet's brazen mouth from far  
With shrilling clangour sounds th' alarm of war, 260  
Struck from the walls, the echoes float on high,  
And the round bulwarks and thick tow'rs reply;  
So high his brazen voice the hero rear'd:  
Hosts drop their arms, and trembled as they heard;  
And back the charriots roll, and coursers bound, 265  
And steeds and men lie mingled on the ground.  
Aghast they see the living lightnings play,  
And turn their eye balls from the flashing ray.  
Thrice from the trench his dreadful voice he rais'd;  
And thrice they fled, confounded and amaz'd. 270  
Twelve in the tumult wedg'd, untimely rush'd  
On their own spears, by their own chariots crush'd:  
While shielded from the darts, the Greeks obtain  
The long-contended carcase of the slain.  
A lofty bier the breathless warrior bears: 275  
Around, his sad companions melt in tears.  
But chief Achilles, bending down his head,  
Pours unavailing sorrows o'er the dead,  
Whom late triumphant with his steeds and car,  
He sent resplendent to the field of war; 280  
(Unhappy change!); now senseless, pale, he found  
Stretch'd forth, and gash'd with many a gaping wound.

Meantime, unweary'd with his heav'nly way,  
 In ocean's waves th' unwilling light of day  
 Quench'd his red orb, at Juno's high command, 285  
 And from their labours eas'd th' Achaian band.  
 The frighted Trojans (panting from the war,  
 Their steeds unharnes'd from the weary car)  
 A sudden counsel call'd: each chief appear'd  
 In haste, and standing; for to fit they fear'd. 290  
 'Twas now no season for prolong'd debate;  
 They saw Achilles, and in him their fate.  
 Silent they stood: Polydamas at last,  
 Skill'd to discern the future by the past,  
 The son of Panthus, thus exprest his fears; 295  
 (The friend of Hector, and of equal years;  
 The self same night to both a being gave,  
 One wise in council, one in action brave.)

In free debate, my friends, your sentence speak;  
 For me, I move, before the morning break, 300  
 To raise our camp: too dang'rous here our post,  
 Far from Troy walls, and on a naked coast.  
 I deem'd not Greece so dreadful, while engag'd  
 In mutual feuds, her king and hero rag'd;  
 Then, while we hop'd our armies might prevail, 305  
 We boldly camp'd beside a thousand sail.  
 I dread Pelides now: his rage of mind  
 Not long continues to the shores confin'd,  
 Nor to the fields, where long in equal fray  
 Contending nations won and lost the day; 310  
 For Troy, for Troy shall henceforth be the strife,  
 And the hard contest not for fame, but life.  
 Haste then to Ilion, while the fav'ring night  
 Detains those terrors, keeps that arm from fight;  
 If but the morrow's sun behold us here, 315  
 That arm, those terrors, we shall feel, not fear;  
 And hearts that now disdain, shall leap with joy,  
 If heav'n permit them then to enter Troy.

## 144 HOMER's ILIAD. Book XVIII.

Let not my fatal prophecy be true,  
Nor what I tremble but to think, ensue. 320

Whatever be our fate, yet let us try  
What force of thought and reason can supply ;  
Let us on counsel for our guard depend ;  
The town, her gates and bulwarks shall defend.  
When morning dawns, our well-appointed pow'rs, 325  
Array'd in arms, shall line the lofty tow'rs.  
Let the fierce hero then, when fury calls,  
Vent his mad vengeance on our rocky walls,  
Or fetch a thousand circles round the plain,  
Till his spent coursers seek the fleet again : 330  
So may his rage be tir'd, and labour'd down ;  
And dogs shall tear him ere he sack the town.

Return ? (said Hector, fir'd with stern disdain) ;  
What coop whole armies in our walls again ?  
Was't not enough, ye valiant warriors, say, 335  
Nine years imprison'd in those tow'rs ye lay ?  
Wide o'er the world was Ilion fam'd of old  
For brass exhaustless, and for mines of gold :  
But while inglorious in her walls we stay'd,  
Sunk were her treasures, and her stores decay'd ; 340  
The Phrygians now her scatter'd spoils enjoy,  
And proud Mæonia wastes the fruits of Troy.  
Great Jove at length my arms to conquest calls,  
And shuts the Grecians in their wooden walls :  
Dar'st thou dispirit whom the Gods incite ? 345  
Flies any Trojan ? I shall stop his flight.  
To better counsel then attention lend ;  
Take due refreshment, and the watch attend.  
If there be one whose riches cost him care,  
Forth let him bring them for the troops to share ; 350  
't is better gen'rously bestow'd on those,  
Than left the plunder of our country's foes.  
Soon as the morn the purple orient warms,  
Fierce on yon navy will we pour our arms.

If great Achilles rise in all his might,  
His be the danger : I shall stand the fight. 355  
Honour, ye Gods ! or let me gain, or give ;  
And live he glorious, whosoe'er shall live !  
Mars is our common Lord, alike to all ;  
And oft the victor triumphs, but to fall. 360

The shouting host in loud applauses join'd :  
So Pallas robb'd the many of their mind ;  
To their own fense condemn'd, and left to chuse  
The worst advice, the better to refuse.

While the long Night extends her sable reign, 365  
Around Patroclus mourn'd the Grecian train.  
Stern in superior grief Pelides stood ;  
Those slaught'ring arms, so us'd to bathe in blood,  
Now clasp his clay cold limbs : then gushing start  
The tears, and sighs burst from his swelling heart. 370  
The lion thus, with dreadful anguish flung,  
Roars through the desart, and demands his young :  
When the grim savage, to his rifled den  
Too late returning, snuffs the track of men,  
And o'er the vales and o'er the forest bounds ; 375  
His clam'rous grief the bellowing wood resounds.  
So grieves Achilles ; and impetuous, vents  
To all his Myrmidons, his loud laments.

In what vain promise, Gods ! did I engage,  
When, to console Menœtius' feeble age, 380  
I vow'd his much lov'd offspring to restore,  
Charg'd with rich spoils, to fair Opuntia's shore ?  
But mighty Jove cuts short, with just disdain,  
The long, long views of poor, designing man !  
One fate the warrior and the friend shall strike, 385  
And Troy's black sands must drink our blood alike :  
Me too a wretched mother shall deplore,  
An aged father never see me more !  
Yet, my Patroclus ! yet a space I stay,  
Then swift pursue thee on the darksome way. 390

## 146 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XVIII.

Ere thy dear relics in the grave are laid,  
 Shall Hector's head be offer'd to thy shade;  
 That, with his arms, shall hang before thy shrine;  
 And twelve the noblest of the Trojan line,  
 Sacred to vengeance, by this hand expire;      395  
 Their lives effus'd around thy flaming pyre.  
 Thus let me lie till then! thus, closely prest,  
 Bathe thy cold face, and sob upon thy breast!  
 While Trojan captives here thy mourners stay,  
 Weep all the night, and murmur all the day:      400  
 Spoils of my arms, and thine; when, wasting wide,  
 Our swords kept time, and conquer'd side by side.

He spoke, and bid the sad attendants round  
 Cleanse the pale corse, and wash each honour'd wound.  
 A massy caldron, of stupendous frame,      405  
 They brought, and plac'd it o'er the rising flame:  
 Then heap the lighted wood; the flame divides  
 Beneath the vase, and climbs around the sides:  
 In its wide womb they pour the rushing stream;  
 The boiling water bubbles to the brim.      410  
 The body then they bathe with pious toil,  
 Embalm the wounds, anoint the limbs with oil,  
 High on a bed of state extended laid,  
 And decent cover'd with a linen shade;  
 Last o'er the dead the milk-white veil they threw;      415  
 That done, their sorrows and their sighs renew.

Meanwhile to Juno, in the realms above,  
 His wife and sister, spoke almighty Jove.  
 At last thy will prevails: great Peleus' son  
 Rises in arms; such grace thy Greeks have won.      420  
 Say, (for I know not), is their race divine,  
 And thou the mother of that martial line?

What words are these? (th' imperial dame replies,  
 While anger flash'd from her majestic eyes).  
 Succour like this a mortal arm might lend,      425  
 And such success mere human wit attend:

Book XVIII. H O M E R's I L I A D. 147

And shall not I, the second pow'r above,  
Heav'n's queen, and consort of the thund'ring Jove,  
Say, shall not I, one nation's fate command,  
Not wreak my vengeance on one guilty land? 430

So they. Meanwhile the silver-footed dame  
Reach'd the Vulcanian dome, eternal frame!  
High eminent amid the works divine,  
Where heav'n's far-beaming brazen mansions shine.  
There the lame architect the Goddess found, 435  
Obscure in smoke, his forges flaming round,  
While bath'd in sweat from fire to fire he flew;  
And puffing loud, the roaring bellows blew.  
That day no common task his labour claim'd:  
Full twenty tripods for his hall he fram'd, 440  
That plac'd on living wheels of massy gold,  
(Wondrous to tell), instinct with spirit roll'd  
From place to place, around the bless'd abodes,  
Self-mov'd, obedient to the beck of Gods:  
For their fair handles now, o'erwrought with flow'rs,  
In molds prepar'd, the glowing ore he pours. 446  
Just as responsive to his thought the frame,  
Stood prompt to move, the azure Goddess came:  
Charis, his spouse, a grace divinely fair,  
(With purple fillets round her braided hair), 450  
Observ'd her ent'ring; her soft hand she press'd,  
And smiling, thus the wat'ry queen address'd.

What, Goddess! this unusual favour draws?  
All hail, and welcome! whatsoe'er the cause:  
Till now a stranger, in a happy hour, 455  
Approach, and taste the dainties of the bow'r.

High on a throne, with stars of silver grac'd,  
And various artifice, the queen she plac'd;  
A footstool at her feet: then calling, said,  
Vulcan, draw near, 'tis Thetis asks your aid. 460  
Thetis, (reply'd the God), our pow'rs may claim,  
An ever dear, an ever honour'd name!

## 148 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XVIII.

When my proud mother hurl'd me from the sky,  
(My awkward form, it seems, displeas'd her eye),  
She, and Eury nome, my griefs redrest, 465  
And soft receiv'd me on their silver breast.

Ev'n then, these arts employ'd my infant thought;  
Chains, bracelets, pendants, all their toys I wrought.  
Nine years kept secret in the dark abode,  
Secure I lay conceal'd from man and God: 470  
Deep in a cavern'd rock my days were led;

The rushing ocean murmur'd o'er my head.  
Now since her presence glads our mansion, say,  
For such desert what service can I pay?

Vouchsafe, O Thetis! at our board to share 475  
The genial rites, and hospitable fare;  
While I the labours of the forge forego,  
And bid the roaring bellows cease to blow.

Then from his anvil the lame artist rose;  
Wide with distorted legs oblique he goes, 480  
And stills the bellows, and (in order laid)  
Locks in their chests his instruments of trade.  
Then with a sponge the footy workman drest  
His brawny arms imbrown'd, and hairy breast.  
With his huge sceptre grac'd, and red attire, 485  
Came halting forth the sov'reign of the fire:  
The monarch's steps two female forms uphold,  
That mov'd and breath'd, in animated gold:  
To whom was voice, and sense, and science giv'n  
Of works divine (such wonders are in heav'n!) 490  
On these supported, with unequal gait,  
He reach'd the throne where pensive Thetis sat:  
There plac'd beside her on the shining frame,  
He thus address'd the silver-footed dame.

Thee, welcome Goddess! what occasion calls 495  
(So long a stranger) to these honour'd walls?  
'Tis thine, fair Thetis, the command to lay,  
And Vulcan's joy and duty to obey.

Book XVIII. HOMER'S ILIAD: 1491

To whom the mournful mother thus replies,  
(The crystal drops stood trembling in her eyes). 500  
Oh Vulcan! say, was ever breast divine  
So pierc'd with sorrows, so o'erwhelm'd as mine?  
Of all the Goddesses, did Jove prepare  
For Thetis only such weight of care?  
I, only I, of all the wat'ry race, 505  
By force subjected to a man's embrace,  
Who, sinking now with age and sorrow, pays  
The mighty fine impos'd on length of days.  
Sprung from my bed, a godlike hero came,  
The bravest sure that ever bore the name; 510  
Like some fair plant beneath my careful hand  
He grew, he flourish'd, and he grac'd the land:  
To Troy I sent him, but his native shore  
Never, ah never, shall receive him more;  
(Ev'n while he lives, he wastes with secret wo); 515  
Nor I, a Goddess, can retard the blow!  
Robb'd of the prize the Grecian suffrage gave  
The king of nations forc'd his royal slave:  
For this he griev'd; and till the Greeks oppress'd,  
Requir'd his arm, he sorrow'd unredress'd. 520  
Large gifts they promise, and their elders send;  
In vain—He arms not, but permits his friend  
His arms, his steeds, his forces to employ;  
He marches, combats, almost conquers Troy:  
Then slain by Phœbus, (Hector had the name), 525  
At once resigns his armour, life, and fame,  
But thou, in pity, by my pray'r be won:  
Grace with immortal arms this short-liv'd son,  
And to the field in martial pomp restore,  
To shine with glory, till he shines no more! 530

To her the Artist-god. Thy griefs resign,  
Secure, what Vulcan can, is ever thine.  
O could I hide him from the fates as well,  
Or with these hands the cruel stroke repel,

## 150 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XVIII.

As I shall forge most envy'd arms, the gaze 535  
Of wondring ages and the world's amaze!

Thus having said, the father of the fires  
To the black labours of his forge retires.  
Soon as he had them blow, the bellows turn'd  
Their iron mouths; and where the furnace burn'd, 540  
Resounding breath'd: at once the blast expires,  
And twenty forges catch at once the fires;  
Just as the God directs, now loud, now low,  
They raise a tempest, or they gently blow.  
In hissing flames huge silver bars are roll'd, 545  
And stubborn brafs, and tin, and solid gold:  
Before, deep fix'd, th' eternal anvils stand;  
The pond'rous hammer loads his better hand;  
His left with tongs turns the vex'd metal round, 549  
And thick, strong strokes, the doubling vaults rebound.

Then first he form'd th' immense and solid shield;  
Rich, various artifice emblaz'd the field;  
Its utmost verge a threefold circle bound;  
A silver chain suspends the massy round;  
Five ample plates the broad expanse compose, 555  
And godlike labours on the surface rose.  
There shone the image of the master-mind;  
There earth, there heav'n, there ocean he design'd;  
Th' unwear'y'd sun, the moon completely round;  
The starry lights that heav'n's high convex crown'd;  
The Pleiads, Hyads, with the northern team; 561  
And great Orion's more resplendent beam;  
To which, around the axle of the sky,  
The Bear revolving, points his golden eye,  
Still shines exalted on th' æthereal plain, 565  
Nor bathes his blazing forehead in the main.

Two cities radiant on the shield appear,  
The image one of peace, and one of war.  
Here sacred pomp, and genial feast delight,  
And solemn dance, and Hymenæal rite; 570

Along the street the new-made brides are led,  
 With torches flaming to the nuptial bed :  
 The youthful dancers in a circle bound  
 To the soft flute, and cittern's silver sound :  
 Through the fair streets, the matrons in a row, 575  
 Stand in their porches, and enjoy the show.

There, in the forum swarm a num'rous train :  
 The subject of debate, a townsmen slain :  
 One pleads the fine discharg'd, which one deny'd,  
 And bade the public and the laws decide : 580  
 The witness is produc'd on either hand ;  
 For this, or that, the partial people stand :  
 Th' appointed heralds still the noisy bands,  
 And form a ring, with sceptres in their hands ;  
 On seats of stone, within the sacred place, 585  
 The rev'rend elders nodded o'er the case ;  
 Alternate, each th' attesting sceptre took,  
 And rising solemn, each his sentence spoke.  
 Two golden talents lay amidst, in sight,  
 The prize of him who best adjudg'd the right. 590

Another part (a prospect diff'rning far)  
 Glow'd with resurgent arms, and horrid war.  
 Two mighty hosts a leaguer'd town embrace,  
 And one would pillage, one would burn the place.  
 Meantime the townsmen, arm'd with silent care, 595  
 A secret ambush for the foe prepare :  
 Their wives, their children, and the watchful band  
 Of trembling parents, on the turrets stand.  
 They march; by Pallas and by Mars made bold:  
 Gold were the Gods, their radiant garments gold, 600  
 And gold their armour: these the squadron led,  
 August, divine, superior by the head !  
 A place for ambush fit they found, and stood  
 Cover'd with shields, beside a silver flood.  
 Two spies at distance lurk, and watchful seem 605  
 If sheep or oxen seek the winding stream.

Soon the white flocks proceeded o'er the plains,  
And steers slow-moving, and two shepherd-swains ;  
Behind them, piping on their reeds, they go,  
Nor fear an ambush, nor suspect a foe. 610

In arms the glitt'ring squadron rising round,  
Rush sudden ; hills of slaughter heap the ground,  
Whole flocks and herds lie bleeding on the plains,  
And, all amidst them, dead, the shepherd-swains !

The bellowing oxen the besiegers hear ; 615  
They rise, take horse, approach, and meet the war ;  
They fight, they fall, beside the silver flood ;  
The waving silver seem'd to blush with blood.

There tumult, there contention stood confess'd ;  
One rear'd a dagger at a captive's breast, 620  
One held a living foe, that freshly bled  
With new-made wounds ; another dragg'd a dead ;  
Now here, now there, the carcases they tore :  
Fate stalk'd amidst them, grim with human gore.  
And the whole war came out, and met the eye ; 625  
And each bold figure seem'd to live or die.

A field deep furrow'd, next the God design'd,  
The third time labour'd by the sweating hind ;  
The shining shares full many ploughmen guide,  
And turn their crooked yokes on ev'ry side. 630  
Still as at either end they wheel around,  
The master meets them with his goblet crown'd ;  
The hearty draught rewards, renews their toil,  
Then back the turning ploughshares cleave the soil :  
Behind the rising earth, in ridges, roll'd ; 635  
And fable look'd, tho' form'd of molten gold.

Another field rose high with waving grain ;  
With bended sickles stand the reaper-train :  
Here stretch'd in ranks the levell'd swarths are found ;  
Sheaves heap'd on sheaves, here thicken up the ground.  
With sweeping stroke the mowers strow the lands ; 641  
The gath'lers follow and collect in bands :

Book XVIII. HOMER's ILLIAD. 153

And last the children, in whose arms are born  
(Too short to gripe them) the brown sheaves of corn.

The rustic monarch of the field descries 645

With silent glee the heaps around him rise.

A ready banquet on the turf is laid,  
Beneath an ample oak's expanded shade.

The victim-ox the sturdy youth prepare;

The reapers due repast, the women's care. 650

Next, ripe in yellow gold, a vineyard shines,  
Bent with the pond'rous harvest of the vines;  
A deeper dye the dangling clusters show,  
And curl'd on silver props, in order glow:  
A darker metal mix'd, intrench'd the place; 655  
And pales of glitt'ring tin th' inclosure grace.  
To this, one path-way gently winding leads,  
Where march a traia with baskets on their heads,  
(Fair maids, and blooming youths), that smiling bear  
The purple product of the autumnal year. 660

To these the youth awakes the trembling strings,  
Whose tender lay the fate of Linus sings;  
In measur'd dance behind him move the train,  
Tune soft the voice, and answer to the strain.

Here, herds of oxen march, erect and bold, 665  
Rear high their horns, and seem to low in gold,  
And speed to meadows on whose sounding shores  
A rapid torrent thro' the rushes roars:

Four golden herdsmen as their guardians stand,  
And nine four dogs compleat the rustic band. 670

Two lions rushing from the wood appear'd,  
And seiz'd a bull, the master of the herd:

He roar'd: in vain the dogs, the men withheld;  
They tore his flesh, and drank the sable blood.

The dogs (oft cheer'd in vain) desert the prey, 675  
Dread the grim terrors, and at distance bay.

\*Next this, the eye the art of Vulcan leads  
Deep thro' fair forests, and a length of meads;

And stalls, and folds, and scatter'd cots between ;  
And fleecy flocks, that whiten all the scene. 680

A figur'd dance succeeds ; such once was seen  
In lofty Gnossus, for the Cretan queen,  
Form'd by Dædalean art : a comely band  
Of youths and maidens, bounding hand in hand ;  
The maids in soft simars of linen drest ; 685

The youths all graceful in the glossy vest :  
Of those the locks with flow'ry wreaths inroll'd ;  
Of these the sides adorn'd with swords of gold,  
That glitt'ring gay, from silver belts depend.

Now all at once they rise, at once descend, 690  
With well-taught feet : now shape in oblique ways,  
Confus'dly regular, the moving maze :  
Now forth at once, too swift for sight they spring,  
And undistinguis'd blend the flying ring :  
So whirls a wheel, in giddy circles tost, 695

And, rapid as it runs, the fingle spokes are lost.  
The gazing multitudes admire around :  
Two active tumblers in the centre bound ;  
Now high, now low, their pliant limbs they bend ;  
And gen'ral songs the sprightly revel end. 700

Thus the broad shield complete the artist crown'd  
With his last hand, and pour'd the ocean round :  
In living silver seem'd the waves to roll,  
And beat the buckler's verge, and bound the whole.

This done, whate'er a warrior's use requires, 705  
He forg'd ; the cuirass that outshines the fires,  
The greaves of ductile tin, the helm imprest  
With various sculpture, and the golden crest.  
At Thetis' feet the finish'd labour lay ;  
She, as a falcon, cuts th' aereal way, 710  
Swift from Olympus' snowy summit flies,  
And bears the blazing present thro' the skies.



T H E  
I L I A D.  
B O O K XIX.

T H E A R G U M E N T.

The reconciliation of Achilles and Agamemnon.

*Thetis brings to her son the armour made by Vulcan. She preserves the body of his friend from corruption, and commands him to assemble the army, to declare his resentment at an end. Agamemnon and Achilles are solemnly reconciled: the speeches, presents, and ceremonies on that occasion. Achilles is with great difficulty persuaded to refrain from the battle till the troops have refreshed themselves, by the advice of Ulysses. The presents are conveyed to the tent of Achilles; where Briseis laments over the body of Patroclus. The hero obstinately refuses all repast, and gives himself up to lamentations for his friend. Minerva descends to strengthen him, by the order of Jupiter. He arms for the fight: his appearance described. He addresses himself to his horses, and reproaches them with the death of Patroclus. One of them is miraculously endued with voice, and inspir-*

*ed to prophesy his fate; but the hero, not astonished by that prodigy, rushes with fury to the combat.*

The thirtieth day. The scene is on the sea-shore.

**S**OON as Aurora heav'd her orient head  
Above the waves, that blush'd with early red,  
(With new-born day to gladden mortal sight,  
And gild the courts of heav'n with sacred light),  
Th' immortal arms the Goddess mother bears      5  
Swift to her son: her son she finds in tears  
Stretch'd o'er Patroclus' corse; while all the rest  
Their sov'reign's sorrows in their own express.  
A ray divine her heav'nly presence shed,  
And thus, his hand soft touching, Thetis said.      10

Suppress (my son) this rage of grief, and know  
It was not man, but heav'n that gave the blow;  
Behold what arms by Vulcan are bestow'd,  
Arms worthy thee, or fit to grace a God.

Then dropt the radiant burden on the ground:      15  
Clang the strong arms, and ring the shores around:  
Back shrink the Myrmidons with dread surprise,  
And from the broad effulgence turn their eyes.  
Unmov'd, the hero kindles at the show,  
And feels with rage divine his bosom glow;      20  
From his fierce eye balls living flames expire,  
And flash incessant like a stream of fire:  
He turns the radiant gift, and feeds his mind  
On all th' immortal artist had design'd.

Goddess! (he cry'd), these glorious arms that shine  
With matchless art, confess the hand divine.      26

Now to the bloody battle let me bend:  
But ah! the relics of my slaughter'd friend!  
In those wide wounds thro' which his spirit fled,  
Shall flies, and worms obscene, pollute the dead?      30

That unavailing care be laid aside,  
 (The azure Goddess to her son reply'd);  
 Whole years untouched, uninjur'd shall remain,  
 Fresh as in life, the carcase of the slain.  
 But go, Achilles, (as affairs require),      35  
 Before the Grecian peers renounce thine ire :  
 Then uncontroll'd in boundless war engage,  
 And heav'n with strength supply the mighty rage !

Then in the nostrils of the slain she pour'd  
 Nectareous drops, and rich ambrosia show'r'd      40  
 O'er all the corse. The flies forbid their prey,  
 Untouch'd it rests, and sacred from decay.  
 Achilles to the strand obedient went :  
 The shores resounded with the voice he sent,  
 The heroes heard, and all the naval train      45  
 That tend the ships, or guide them o'er the main,  
 Alarm'd, transported at the well known sound,  
 Frequent and full the great assembly crown'd ;  
 Studious to see that terror of the plain,  
 Long lost to battle, shine in arms again.      50  
 Tydides and Ulysses first appear,  
 Lame with their wounds, and leaning on the spear ;  
 These on the sacred seats of council plac'd,  
 The king of men, Atrides came the last :  
 He too sore wounded by Agenor's son.      55  
 Achilles (rising in the midst) begun.

Oh monarch ! better far had been the fate  
 Of thee, of me, of all the Grecian state,  
 If (ere the day when by mad passion sway'd,  
 Rash we contended for the black-ey'd maid),      60  
 Preventing Dian had dispatch'd her dart,  
 And shot the shining mischief to the heart !  
 Then many a hero had not press'd the shore,  
 Nor Troy's glad fields been fatten'd with our gore :  
 Long, long shall Greece the woes we caus'd, bewail,  
 And sad posterity repeat the tale.      65

## 153 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XIX.

But this, no more the subject of debate,  
Is past, forgotten, and resign'd to fate:  
Why should (alas!) a mortal man, as I  
Burn with a fury that can never die?

70

Here then my anger ends; let war succeed;  
And even as Greece has bled, let Ilion bleed.  
Now call the hosts, and try, if in our sight,  
Troy yet shall dare to camp a second night:  
I deem, their mightiest, when this arm he knows,

75

Shall 'scape with transport, and with joy repose.

He said: his finish'd wrath with loud acclaim  
The Greeks accept, and shout Pelides' name.  
When thus, not rising from his lofty throne,  
In state unmov'd, the king of men begun.

80

Hear me, ye sons of Greece! with silence hear!

And grant your monarch an impartial ear;  
A while your loud, untimely joy suspend,  
And let your rash, injurious clamours end:  
Unruly murmurs, or ill-tim'd applause,  
Wrong the best speaker, and the justest cause.  
Nor charge on me, ye Greeks, the dire debate:  
Know, angry Jove, and all compelling Fate,  
With fell Erinnys, urg'd my wrath that day  
When from Achilles' arms I forc'd the prey.

90

What then could I, against the will of heav'n?

Not by myself, but vengeful Ate driv'n;  
She, Jove's dread daughter, fated to infest  
The race of mortals, enter'd in my breast.  
Not on the ground that haughty fury treads,  
But prints her lofty footsteps on the heads  
Of mighty men; inflicting as she goes  
Long fest'ring wounds, inextricable woes!  
Of old she stalk'd amid the bright abodes;  
And Jove himself, the fire of men and Gods,

95

100 The world's great ruler, felt her venom'd dart;  
Deceiv'd by Juno's wiles, and female art.

Book XIX. HOMER's ILIAD. 159

For when Alcmena's nine long months were run,  
And Jove expected his immortal son;  
To Gods and Goddesses th' unruly joy 105  
He shew'd, and vaunted of his matchless boy:  
From us (he said) this day an infant springs,  
Fated to rule, and born a king of kings.  
Saturnia ask'd an oath, to vouch the truth,  
And fix dominion to the favour'd youth. 110  
The Thund'rer, unsuspicuous of the fraud,  
Pronounce'd those solemn words that bind a God.  
The joyful Goddess, from Olympus' height,  
Swift to Achaian Argos bent her flight;  
Scarce sev'n moons gone, lay Sthenelus's wife; 115  
She push'd her ling'ring infant into life:  
Her charms Alcmena's coming labours stay,  
And stop the babe, just issuing to the day.  
Then bids Saturnius bear his oath in mind:  
" A youth (said she) of Jove's immortal kind 120  
" Is this day born: from Sthenelus he springs,  
" And claims thy promise to be king of kings."  
Grief seiz'd the Thund'rer, by his oath engag'd;  
Stung to the soul, he sorrow'd, and he rag'd.  
From his ambrosial head, where perch'd the sat, 125  
He snatch'd the Fury-goddess of Debate,  
The dread, th' irrevocable oath he swore,  
Th' immortal seats should ne'er behold her more;  
And whirl'd her headlong down, for ever driv'n  
From bright Olympus and the starry heav'n: 130  
Thence on the nether world the fury fell;  
Ordain'd with man's contentious race to dwell.  
Full oft the God his son's hard toils bemoan'd,  
Curs'd the dire fury, and in secret groan'd.  
Ev'n thus, like Jove himself was I misled, 135  
While raging Hector heap'd our camps with dead.  
What can the errors of my rage atone?  
My martial troops, my treasures are thy own:

## 160 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XIX.

This instant from the navy shall be sent  
 Whate'er Ulysses promis'd at thy tent: 140  
 But thou ! appeas'd, propitious to our pray'r,  
 Resume thy arms, and shine again in war.

O king of nations ! whose superior sway  
 (Returns Achilles) all our hosts obey !  
 To keep or send the presents, be thy care; 145  
 To us, 'tis equal : all we ask is war.  
 While yet we talk, or but an instant shun  
 The fight, our glorious work remains undone.  
 Let ev'ry Greek, who sees my spear confound  
 The Trojan ranks, and deal destruction round, 150  
 With emulation, what I act, survey,  
 And learn from thence the busines of the day.

The son of Peleus thus : and thus replies  
 The great in councils, Ithacus the wife.  
 Tho' godlike, thou art by no toils opprest, 155  
 At least our armies claim repast and rest :  
 Long and laborious must the combat be,  
 When by the Gods inspir'd, and led by thee.  
 Strength is deriv'd from spirits and from blood,  
 And those augment by gen'rous wine and food : 160  
 What boastful son of war, without that stay,  
 Can last a hero thro' a single day ?  
 Courage may prompt ; but, ebbing out his strength,  
 Mere unsupported man must yield at length ;  
 Shrunk with dry famine and with toils declin'd, 165  
 The drooping body will desert the mind :  
 But built anew with strength conferring fare,  
 With limbs and soul untam'd, he tires a war.  
 Dismiss the people then, and give command.  
 With strong repast to hearten ev'ry band ; 170  
 But let the presents to Achilles made,  
 In full assembly of all Greece be laid,  
 The king of men shall rise in public fight,  
 And solemn swear, (obedient of the rite),

Book XIX. H O M E R's I L I A D. 161

That spotless as she came, the maid removes,  
Pure from his arms, and guiltless of his loves. 175

That done, a sumptuous banquet shall be made,  
And the full price of injur'd honour paid.

Stretch not henceforth, O prince ! thy sov'reign might  
Beyond the bounds of reason and of right : 180

'Tis the chief praise that e'er to kings belong'd,  
To right with justice whom with pow'r they wrong'd.

To him the monarch : Just is thy decree,  
Thy words give joy, and wisdom breathes in thee.

Each due atonement gladly I prepare ;  
And heav'n regard me as I justly swear ! 185

Here then a while let Greece assembled stay,  
Nor great Achilles grudge this short delay ;  
Till from the fleet our presents be convey'd,  
And, Jove attesting, the firm compact made. 190

A train of noble youths the charge shall bear ;  
These, to select, Ulysses, be thy care :  
In order rank'd let all our gifts appear,  
And the fair train of captives close the rear ;  
Talthybius shall the victim boar convey, 195  
Sacred to Jove, and yon bright orb of day.

For this (the stern Æacides replies)  
Some less important season may suffice,  
When the stern fury of the war is o'er,  
And wrath extinguish'd burns my breast no more. 200

By Hector slain, their faces to the sky,  
All grim with gaping wounds, our heroes lie :  
Those call to war ! and might my voice incite,  
Now, now, this instant, should commence the fight.

Then, when the day's complete, let gen'rous bowls,  
And copious banquets, glad your weary souls. 205  
Let not my palate know the taste of food,  
Till my infatiate rage be cloy'd with blood :  
Pale lies my friend, with wounds disfigur'd o'er,  
And his cold feet are pointed to the door. 210

Revenge is all my soul! no meaner care,  
Int'rest, or thought, has room to harbour there;  
Destruction be my feast, and mortal wounds,  
And scenes of blood, and agonizing sounds.

O first of Greeks, (Ulysses thus rejoin'd), 215

The best and bravest of the warrior kind!

Thy praise it is in dreadful camps to shine,  
But old experience and calm wisdom mine.

Then hear my counsel, and to reason yield,

The bravest soon are satiate of the field; 220

Tho' vast the heaps that strow the crimson plain,

The bloody harvest brings but little gain:

The scale of conquest ever wav'ring lies,

Great Jove but turns it, and the victor dies!

The great, the bold, by thousands daily fall, 225

And endless were the grief to weep for all.

Eternal sorrows what avails to shed?

Greece honours not with solemn fasls the dead:

Enough, when death demands the brave, to pay

The tribute of a melancholy day. 230

One chief with patience to the grave resign'd,

Our care devolves on others left behind.

Let gen'rous food supplies of strength produce,

Let rising spirits flow from sprightly juice,

Let their warm heads with scenes of battle glow, 235

And pour new furies on the feeble foe.

Yet a short interval, and none shall dare

Expect a second summons to the war;

Who waits for that the dire effects shall find,

If trembling in the ships he lags behind. 240

Embodyed, to the battle let us bend.

And all at once on haughty Troy descend.

And now the delegates Ulysses sent,

To bear the presents from the royal tent.

The sons of Nestor, Phyleus' valiant heir,

Thias and Merion, thunderbolts of war, 245

With Lycomedes of Creiontian strain,  
And Melanippus, form'd the chosen train.  
Swift as the word was giv'n, the youth obey'd ;  
Twice ten bright vases in the midst was laid ; 250  
A row of six fair tripods then succeeds ;  
And twice the number of high bounding steeds :  
Sev'n captives next a lovely line compo'e ;  
The eighth Bri.eis, like the blooming rose,  
Clos'd the bright band : great Ithacus, before, 255  
First of the train, the golden talents bore ;  
The rest in public view the chiefs dispose,  
A splendid scene ! then Agamemnon rose :  
The boar Talthybius held : the Grecian lord  
Drew the broad cutlace sheath'd beside his sword : 260  
The stubborn bristles from the victim's brow  
He crops, and off'ring meditates his vow.  
His hands uplifted to th' attesting skies,  
On heav'n's broad marble roof were fix'd his eyes ;  
The solemn words a deep attention draw, 265  
And Greece around sat thrill'd with sacred awe.

Witness thou first ! thou greatest pow'r above !  
All-good, all-wise, and all-surviving Jove !  
And mother earth, and heav'n's revolving light,  
And ye, fell furies of the realms of night, 270  
Who rule the dead, and horrid woes prepare  
For perjur'd kings, and all who falsely swear !  
The black-ey'd maid inviolate removes,  
Pure and unconscious of my manly loves,  
If this be false, heav'n all its vengeance shed, 275  
And levell'd thunder strike my guilty head !

With that, his weapon deep inflcts the wound ;  
The bleeding savage tumbles to the ground.  
The sacred herald rolls the victim slain  
(A feast for fish) into the foaming main. 280

Then thus Achilles. Hear, ye Greeks ! and know  
Whate'er we feel, 'tis Jove inflicts the wo :

Not else Atrides could our rage inflame,  
Nor from my arms, unwilling, force the dame.  
'Twas Jove's high will alone, o'er-ruling all,      285  
That doom'd our strife, and doom'd the Greeks to fall.  
Go then, ye chiefs! indulge the genial rite;  
Achilles waits ye, and expects the fight.

The speedy council at his word adjourn'd:  
To their black vessels all the Greeks return'd:      290  
Achilles sought his tent. His train before  
March'd onward, bending with the gifts they bore.  
Those in the tents the squires industrious spread:  
The foaming coursers to the stalls they led;  
To their new seats the female captives move:      295  
Briseis, radiant as the queen of love,  
Slow as she pass'd, beheld with sad survey  
Where gash'd with cruel wounds, Patroclus lay.  
Prone on the body fell the heav'nly fair,  
Beat her sad breast, and tore her golden hair;      300  
All beautiful in grief, her humid eyes,  
Shining with tears, she lifts, and thus she cries.

Ah youth, for ever dear, for ever kind,  
Once tender friend of my distracted mind!  
I left thee fresh in life, in beauty gay;      305  
Now find thee cold, inanimated clay!  
What woes my wretched race of life attend?  
Sorrows on sorrows, never doom'd to end!  
The first lov'd consort of my virgin bed  
Before these eyes in fatal battle bled:      310  
My three brave brothers, in one mournful day,  
All trod the dark, irremovable way:  
Thy friendly hand uprear'd me from the plain,  
And dry'd my sorrows for a husband slain;  
Achilles' care you promis'd I should prove,      315  
The first, the dearest partner of his love;  
That rites divine should ratify the band,  
And make me empress in his native land.

Book XIX. HOMER's ILIAD. 165

Accept these grateful tears ! for thee they flow,  
For thee, that ever felt another's wo ! 320

Her sister captives echo'd groan for groan,  
Nor mourn'd Patroclus' fortunes, but their own.  
The leaders pres'ld the chief on ev'ry side ;  
Unmov'd he heard them, and with sighs deny'd.

If yet Achilles have a friend, whose care 325  
Is bent to please him, this request for bear :  
Till yonder sun descend, ah let me pay  
To grief and anguish one abstemious day.

He spoke, and from the warriors turn'd his face :  
Yet still the brother kings of Atreus' race, 330  
Nestor, Idomeneus, Ulysses sage,  
And Phœnix, strive to calm his grief and rage :  
His rage they calm not, nor his grief controul ;  
He groans, he raves, he sorrows from his soul.

Thou too, Patroclus ! (thus, his heart he vents), 335  
Once spread th' inviting banquet in our tents :  
Thy sweet society, thy winning care,  
Once staid Achilles, rushing to the war.  
But now, alas ! to death's cold arms resign'd,  
What banquet but revenge can glad my mind ? 340  
What greater sorrow could afflict my breast,  
What more, if hoary Peleus were deceast ?  
Who now, perhaps, in Phthia dreads to hear  
His son's sad fate, and drops a tender tear.

What more, should Neoptolemus the brave 345  
(My only offspring) sink into the grave ?  
If yet that offspring lives, I distant far,  
Of all neglectful, wage a hateful war.  
I could not this, this cruel stroke attend ;  
Fate claim'd Achilles, but might spare his friend. 350  
I hop'd Patroclus might survive, to rear  
My tender orphan with a parent's care,  
From Scyros isle conduct him o'er the main,  
And glad his eyes with his paternal reign,  
The lofty palace, and the large domain. 355

For Peleus breathes no more the vital air ;  
 Or drags a wretched life of age and care,  
 But till the news of my sad fate invades  
 His hast'ning soul, and sinks him to the shades.

Sighing he said : his grief the heroes join'd, 360  
 Each stole a tear for what he left behind.  
 Their mingled grief the fire of heav'n survey'd,  
 And thus with pity to his blue ey'd maid.

Is then Achilles now no more thy care,  
 And dost thou thus desert the great in war; 365  
 Lo, where yon canvas fails their wings extend,  
 All comfortless he sits, and wails his friend:  
 Ere thirst and want his forces have opprest,  
 Haste and infuse ambrosia in his breast.

He spoke ; and sudden at the word of Jove, 370  
 Shot the descending Goddes from above.  
 So swift from æther the dull Harpy springs,  
 The wide air floating to her ample wings.  
 To great Achilles she her flight addrest,  
 And pour'd divine ambrosia in his breast, 375  
 With nectar sweet, (refection of the Gods !)  
 Then swift ascending, sought the bright abodes.

Now issu'd from the ships the warrior train,  
 And like a deluge pour'd upon the plain.  
 As when the piercing blasts of Boreas blow, 380  
 And scatter o'er the fields the driving snow ;  
 From dusky clouds the fleecy winter flies,  
 Whose dazzling lustre whi.ens all the skies :  
 So helms succeeding helms, so shields from shields 384  
 Catch the quick beams, and brighten all the fields ;  
 Broad glitt'ring breast plates, spears with pointed rays  
 Mix in one stream, reflecting blaze on blaze :  
 Thick beats the centre as the courfers bound. [round.  
 With splendour flame the skies, and laugh the fields a-  
 Full in the midst, high tow'ring o'er the rest, 390  
 His limbs in arms divine Achilles dreft ;

Arms which the father of the fire bestow'd,  
Forg'd on th' eternal anvils of the God.  
Grief and revenge his furious heart inspire,  
His glowing eye balls roll with living fire; 395  
He grinds his teeth, and furious with delay  
O'erlooks th' embattled host, and hopes the bloody day.

The silver cuishes first his thighs infold:  
Then o'er his breast was brac'd the hollow gold:  
The brazen sword a various baldric ty'd, 400  
That, starr'd with gems, hung glitt'ring at his side;  
And, like the moon, the broad refulgent shield  
Blaz'd with long rays, and gleam'd athwart the field.

So to night wand'ring sailors, pale with fears,  
Wide o'er the watry waste, a light appears, 405  
Which on the far-seen mountain blazing high,  
Streams from some lonely watch-tow'r to the sky:  
With mournful eyes they gaze, and gaze again;  
Loud howls the storm, and drives them o'er the main.

Next, his high head the helmet grac'd; behind 410  
The sweepy crest hung floating in the wind:  
Like the red star, that from his flaming hair  
Shakes down diseases, pestilence and war;  
So stream'd the golden honours from his head, [shed.  
Trembled the sparkling plumes, and the loose glories  
The chief beholds himself with wondring eyes; 416  
His arms he poises, and his motions tries;  
Buoy'd by some inward force, he seems to swim,  
And feels a pinion lifting ev'ry limb.

And now he shakes the great paternal spear, 420  
Pond'rous and huge! which not a Greek could rear.  
From Pelion's cloudy top an ash entire  
Old Chiron fell'd, and shap'd it for his fire;  
A spear which stern Achilles only wields,  
The death of heroes and the dread of fields. 425

Automedon and Alcimus prepare  
Th'immortal coursers and the radiant car,

{ The silver traces sweeping at their side);  
 Their fiery mouths resplendent bridles ty'd,  
 The ivory studded reins, return'd behind, 430  
 Wav'd o'er their backs, and to the chariot join'd.  
 The charioteer then furl'd the lash around,  
 And swift ascended at one active bound.  
 All bright in heav'nly arms, above his squire  
 Achilles mounts, and sets the field on fire; 435  
 Not brighter Phœbus in th' æthereal way,  
 Flames from his chariot, and restores the day.  
 High o'er the host, all terrible he stands,  
 And thunders to his steeds these dread commands.

Xanthus and Balius! of Podarges' strain, 440  
 (Unless ye boast that heav'nly race in vain),  
 Be swift, be mindful of the load'ye bear,  
 And learn to make your master more your care:  
 Thro' falling squadrons bear my slaught'ring sword,  
 Nor, as ye left Patroclus, leave your lord. 445

The gen'rous Xanthus, as the words he said,  
 Seem'd sensible of wo, and droop'd his head:  
 Trembling he stood before the golden wain,  
 And bow'd to dust the honours of his mane;  
 When, strange to tell! (so Juno will'd) he broke 450  
 Eternal silence, and portentous spoke.

Achilles! yes! this day at least we bear  
 Thy rage in safety through the files of war:  
 But come it will, the fatal time must come,  
 Nor ours the fault, but God decrees the doom, 455  
 Not through our crime, or flowness in the course,  
 Fell thy Patroclus, but by heav'nly force;  
 The bright far-shooting God who gilds the day,  
 (Confess'd we saw him), tore his arms away.  
 No—could our swiftness o'er the winds prevail, 460  
 Or beat the pinions of the western gale,  
 All were in vain—the fates thy death demand,  
 Due to a mortal and immortal hand.

Book XIX. HOMER's ILIAD.

169

Then ceas'd for ever, by the Furies ty'd,  
His fatal voice. Th' intrepid chief reply'd :      465  
With unabated rage—So let it be!

Portents and prodigies are lost on me.  
I know my fates ; to die, to see no more  
My much lov'd parents, and my native shore—  
Enough—when heav'n ordains, I sink in night ;      470  
Now perish Troy ! he said, and rush'd to fight.



T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K   XX.

T H E   A R G U M E N T.

The battle of the Gods, and the acts of Achilles.

*Jupiter, upon Achilles's return to the battle, calls a council of the Gods, and permits them to assist either party. The terrors of the combat described, when the Deities are engaged. Apollo encourages Æneas to meet Achilles. After a long conversation, these two heroes encounter; but Æneas is preserved by the assistance of Neptune. Achilles falls upon the rest of the Trojans, and is upon the point of killing Hector, but Apollo conveys him away in a cloud. Achilles pursues the Trojans with a great slaughter.*

The same day continues. The scene is in the field before Troy.

**T**Hus round Pelides breathing war and blood,  
Greece sheath'd in arms, beside her vessels stood;  
While near impending from a neighb'ring height,  
Troy's black battalions wait the shock of fight.

## Book XX. HOMER's ILIAD.

171

Then Jove to Themis gives command, to call      5

The Gods to council in the starry hall;

Swift o'er Olympus' hundred hills she flies,

And summons all the senate of the skies.

These shining on, in long procession come

To Jove's eternal adamantine dome.      10

Not one was absent, not a rural pow'r,

That haunts the verdant gloom or rosy bow'r,

Each fair hair'd Dryad of the shady wood,

Each azure sister of the silver flood;

All but old ocean, hoary fire! who keeps      15

His ancient seat beneath the sacred deeps.

On marble thrones with lucid columns crown'd,

(The work of Vulcan), sat the pow'rs around.

Ev'n \* he whose trident sways the wat'ry reign,

Heard the loud summons, and forsook the main,      20

Asum'd his throne amid the bright abodes,

And question'd thus the fire of men and Gods.

What moves the God who heav'n and earth com-  
mands,

And grasps the thunder in his awful hands,

Thus to convene the whole æthereal state?      25

Is Greece and Troy the subject in debate?

Already met, the louring hosts appear,

And death stands ardent on the edge of war.

'Tis true, (the cloud-compelling pow'r replies),

This day, we call the council of the skies      30

In care of human race; ev'n Jove's own eye

Sees with regret unhappy mortals die.

Far on Olympus' top in secret state

Ourselves will sit, and see the hand of fate

Work out our will. Celestial pow'rs descend,      35

And, as your minds direct, your succour lend

\* Neptune.

To either host. Troy soon must lie o'erthrown,  
If uncontroll'd Achilles fights alone :  
Their troops but lately durst not meet his eyes ;  
What can they now, if in his rage he rise ? 40  
Assist them, Gods ! or Ilion's sacred wall  
May fall this day, though fate forbids the fall.

He said, and fir'd their heav'nly breasts with rage :  
On adverse parts the warring Gods engage.  
Heav'n's awful queen ; and he whose azure round 45  
Girds the vast globe ; the maid in arms renown'd ;  
Hermes, of profitable arts the fire :  
And Vulcan, the black sov'reign of the fire :  
These to the fleet repair with instant flight ;  
The vessels tremble as the Gods alight. 50  
In aid of Troy, Latona, Phœbus came,  
Mars fiery helm'd, the laughter-loving dame,  
Xanthus whose streams in golden currents flow,  
And the chaste huntress of the silver bow.  
Ere yet the Gods their various aid employ, 55  
Each Argive bosom swell'd with manly joy,  
While great Achilles, (terror of the plain),  
Long lost to battle, shone in arms again.  
Dreadful he stood in front of all his host ;  
Pale Troy beheld, and seem'd already lost ; 60  
Her bravest heroes pant with inward fear,  
And trembling see another God of war.

But when the pow'rs descending swell'd the fight,  
Then tumult rose ; fierce rage and pale affright  
Vary'd each face ; then discord sounds alarms, 65  
Earth echoes, and the nations rush to arms.  
Now through the trembling shores Minerva calls,  
And now she thunders from the Grecian walls.  
Mars hov'ring o'er his Troy, his terror shrouds  
In gloomy tempests, and a night of clouds : 70  
Now through each Trojan heart he fury pours,  
With voice divine, from Ilion's topmost tow'rs ;

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Book XX. HOMER's ILIAD. 173

Now shouts to Simois, from her beauteous hill ;  
The mountain shook, the rapid stream stood still.  
Above, the fire of Gods his thunder rolls, 75  
And peals on peals redoubled rend the poles.  
Beneath, stern Neptune thakes the solid ground ;  
The forests wave, the mountains nod around ;  
Through all their summits tremble Ida's woods,  
And from their sources boil her hundred floods. 80  
Troy's turrets totter on the rocking plain ;  
And the toss'd navies beat the heaving main.  
Deep in the dismal regions of the dead,  
Th' infernal monarch rear'd his horrid head,  
Leap'd from his throne, lest Neptune's arm should lay 85  
His dark dominions open to the day,  
And pour in light on Pluto's drear abodes,  
Abhor'd by men, and dreadful ev'n to Gods.

Such war th' immortals wage ; such horrors rend  
The world's vast concave, when the Gods contend.  
First silver shafted Phebus took the plain 91  
Against blue Neptune, monarch of the main :  
The God of arms his giant-bulk display'd,  
Oppos'd to Pallas, war's triumphant-maid.  
Against Latona march'd the son of May : 95  
The quiver'd Dian, sister of the day,  
(Her golden arrows sounding at her side),  
Saturnia, majesty of heav'n, defy'd.  
With fiery Vulcan last in battle stands  
The sacred flood that rolls on golden sands ; 100  
Xanthus his name with those of heav'nly birth,  
But call'd Scamander by the sons of earth.

While thus the Gods in various league engage,  
Achilles glow'd with more than mortal rage ;  
Hector he sought ; in search of Hector turn'd 105  
His eyes around, for Hector only burn'd ;  
And burst like lightning through the ranks, and vow'd  
To glut the God of battles with his blood.

Æneas was the first who dar'd to stay ;  
 Apollo wedg'd him in the warrior's way,      110  
 But swell'd his bosom with undaunted might,  
 Half-forc'd, and half-persuaded to the fight.  
 Like young Lycaon, of the royal line,  
 In voice and aspect, seem'd the pow'r divine :  
 And bade the chief reflect, how late with scorn      115  
 In distant threats he brav'd the Goddess-born.

Then thus the hero of Anchises' strain.  
 To meet Pelides you persuade in vain :  
 Already have I met, nor void of fear  
 Observ'd the fury of his flying spear :      120  
 From Ida's woods he chas'd us to the field,  
 Our force he scatter'd, and our herds he kill'd :  
 Lyrnessus, Pegasus in ashes lay :  
 But (Jove assisting) I surviv'd the day.  
 Else had I funk oppress'd in fatal fight,      125  
 By fierce Achilles and Minerva's might.  
 Where-e'er he mov'd, the Goddess shone before,  
 And bath'd his brazen lance in hostile gore.  
 What mortal man Achilles can sustain ?  
 Th'immortals guard him thro' the dreadful plain,      131  
 And suffer not his dart to fall in vain.  
 Were God my aid, this arm should check his pow'r,  
 Though strong in battle as a brazen tow'r.

To whom the son of Jove : That God implore,  
 And be what great Achilles was before.      135  
 From heav'nly Venus thou deriv'st thy strain,  
 And he but from a sister of the main :  
 An aged Sea-god, father of his line,  
 But Jove himself the sacred source of thine.  
 Then lift thy weapon for a noble blow,      140  
 Nor fear the vaunting of a mortal foe.

This said, and spirit breath'd into his breast,  
 Through the thick troops th' embolden'd hero prest :

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Book XX. HOMER'S ILIAD. 175

His vent'rous act the white-arm'd queen survey'd,  
And thus, assembling all the pow'rs, she said. 145

Behold an action, Gods! that claims your care,  
Lo great Æneas rushing to the war!  
Against Pelides he directs his course;  
Phœbus impels, and Phœbus gives him force.  
Restrain his bold career; at least, t' attend 150  
Our favour'd hero, let some pow'r descend,  
To guard his life, and add to his renown,  
We, the great armament of heav'n, came down.  
Hereafter let him fall, as fates design,  
That spun so short his life's illustrious line: 155  
But lest some adverſe God now cross his way,  
Give him to know, what pow'rs affil this day:  
For how shall mortal stand the dire alarms,  
When heav'n's refulgent host appear in arms?

Thus ſhe; and thus the God whose force can make  
The ſolid globe's eternal basis ſhake. 161  
Against the might of man, ſo ſeeble known,  
Why ſhould celeſtial pow'rs exert their own?  
Suffice, from yonder mount to view the ſcene;  
And leave to war the fates of mortal men. 165  
But if th' Armiſtotent, or God of light,  
Obſtruct Achilles, or commence the fight,  
Thence on the Gods of Troy we ſwift descend:  
Full ſoon, I doubt not, ſhall the conflict end,  
And these, in ruin and conuſion hurl'd, 170  
Yield to our conq'ring arms the lower world.

Thus having ſaid, the tyrant of the ſea,  
Cærulean Neptune, rose, and led the way.  
Advanc'd upon the field there stood a mound  
Of earth congeſted, wall'd, and trench'd around; 175  
In elder times to guard Alcides made,  
(The work of Trojans, with Minerva's aid),  
What time a vengeful monster of the main  
Swept the wide shore, and drove him to the plain.

Here Neptune and the Gods of Greece repair, 180  
With clouds encompass'd, and a veil of air.

The adverse pow'rs, around Apollo laid,  
Crown the fair hills that silver Simois shade,  
In circle close each heav'nly party sat,  
Intent to form the future scheme of fate ; 185  
But mix not yet in fight, though Jove on high  
Gives the loud signal, and the heav'ns reply.

Mean while the rushing armies hide the ground ;  
The trampled centre yields a hollow sound :  
Steeds cas'd in mail, and chiefs in armour bright, 190  
The gleamy champaign glows with brazen light.  
Amid both hosts (a dreadful space !) appear  
There, great Achilles; bold Æneas, here.  
With tow'ring strides Æneas first advanc'd ;  
The nodding plumage on his helmet danc'd, 195  
Spread o'er his breast, the fencing shield he bore,  
And, as he mov'd, his jav'lin flam'd before.  
Not so Pelides ; furious to engage,  
He rush'd impetuous. Such the lion's rage,  
Who viewing first his foes with scornful eyes, 200  
Though all in arms the peopled city rise,  
Stalks careless on, with unregarding pride :  
Till at the length, by some brave youth defy'd,  
To his bold spear the savage turns alone,  
He murmurs fury with an hollow groan ; 205  
He grins, he foams, he rolls his eyes around ;  
Lash'd by his tail his heaving sides resound ;  
He calls up all his rage ; he grinds his teeth,  
Resolv'd on vengeance, or resolv'd on death.  
So fierce Achilles on Æneas flies ; 210  
So stands Æneas, and his force defies.

Ere yet the stern encounter join'd, begun  
The seed of Thetis thus to Venus' son.

Why comes Æneas through the ranks so far ?  
Seeks he to meet Achilles' arm in war. 215

In hope the realms of Priam to enjoy.  
 And prove his merits to the throne of Troy ?  
 Grant that beneath thy lance Achilles dies,  
 The partial monarch may refuse the prize :  
 Sons he has many ; those thy pride may quell ; 220  
 And 'tis his fault to love those sons too well.  
 Or, in reward of thy victorious hand,  
 Has Troy propos'd some spacious tract of land ;  
 An ample forest, or a fair domain,  
 Of hills for vines, and arable for grain ? 225  
 Ev'n this, perhaps, will hardly prove thy lot.  
 But can Achilles be so soon forgot ?  
 Once (as I think) you saw this brandish'd spear,  
 And then the great Æneas seem'd to fear.  
 With hearty haste from Ida's mount he fled, 230  
 Nor, till he reach'd Lyrnessus, turn'd his head.  
 Her lofty walls not long our progress staid ;  
 Those Pallas, Jove, and we, in ruins laid :  
 In Grecian chains her captive race were cast ;  
 'Tis true, the great Æneas fled too fast. 235  
 Defrauded of my conquest once before,  
 What then I lost, the Gods this day restore.  
 Go : while thou mayst, avoid the threaten'd fate ;  
 Fools stay to feel it, and are wise too late.

To this Anchises' son : Such words emp'oy 240  
 To one that fears thee, some unwarlike boy ;  
 Such we disdain : the best may be defy'd  
 With mean reproaches, and unmanly pride :  
 Unworthy the high race from which we came,  
 Proclaim'd so loudly by the voice of fame : 245  
 Each from illustrious fathers draws his line :  
 Each Goddess-born : half human, half divine.  
 Thetis' this day, or Venus' offspring dies,  
 And tears shall trickle from celestial eyes :  
 For when two heroes, thus deriv'd, contend, 250  
 'Tis not in words the glorious strife can end.

If yet thou farther seek to learn my birth,  
 (A tale resounded through the spacious earth),  
 Hear how the glorious origin we prove  
 From ancient Dardanus, the first from Jove : 255  
 Dardania's walls he rais'd ; for Ilion, then,  
 (The city since of many-languag'd-men),  
 Was not. The natives were content to till  
 The shady foot of Ida's fount full hill.  
 From Dardanus, great Erichthonius springs, 260  
 The richest, once, of Asia's wealthy kings ;  
 Three thousand mares his spacious pastures bred,  
 Three thousand foals beside their mothers fed.  
 Boreas, enamour'd of the sprightly train,  
 Conceal'd his Godhead in a flowing mane, 265  
 With voice dissembled to his loves he neigh'd,  
 And cours'd the dappled beauties o'er the mead :  
 Hence sprung twelve others of unrivall'd kind,  
 Swift as their mother mares, and father wind.  
 These lightly skimming, when they swept the plain,  
 Nor ply'd the grafts, nor bent the tender grain ; 271  
 And when along the level seas they flew,  
 Scarce on the surface curl'd the briny dew.  
 Such Erichthonius was : from him there came  
 The sacred Tros, of whom the Trojan name. 275  
 Three sons renown'd adorn'd his nuptial bed,  
 Ilus, Assaracus, and Ganymed :  
 The matchless Ganymed, divinely fair,  
 Whom heav'n, enamour'd, snatch'd to upper air,  
 To bear the cup of Jove, (æthereal guest, 280  
 The grace and glory of th' ambrofial feast).  
 The two remaining sons the line divide :  
 First rose Laomedon from Ilus' side ;  
 From him Tithonus, now in cares grown old.  
 And Priam, (blest with Hector, brave and bold) :  
 Clytius and Lampus, ever-honour'd pair ; 286  
 And Hicetaon, thunderbolt of war.

Book XX. HOMER's ILIAD. 179

From great Assaracus sprung Capys. He  
Begat Anchises, and Anchises me.  
Such is our race: 'tis fortune gives us birth, 290  
But Jove alone endues the soul with worth:  
He, source of pow'r and might! with boundless sway,  
All human courage gives, or takes away.  
Long in the field of words we may contend,  
Reproach is infinite, and knows no end, 295  
Arm'd or with truth or falsehood, right or wrong;  
So volatile a weapon is the tongue;  
Wounded, we wound; and neither side can fail,  
For ev'ry man has equal strength to rail:  
Women alone, when in the streets they jar, 300  
Perhaps excel us in this wordy war;  
Like us they stand, encompass'd with the crowd,  
And vent their anger impotent and loud.  
Cease then—Our bus'ness in the field of fight  
Is not to question, but to prove our might. 305  
To all those insults thou hast offer'd here,  
Receive this answer: 'tis my flying spear.

He spoke. With all his force the jav'lin flung,  
Fix'd deep, and loudly in the buckler rung.  
Far on his outstretch'd arm, Pelides held 310  
(To meet the thund'ring lance) his dreadful shield,  
That trembled as it stuck; nor void of fear  
Saw, ere it fell, th' immeasurable spear.  
His fears were vain; impenetrable charms  
Secur'd the temper of th' æthereal arms. 315  
Thro' two strong plates the point its passage held,  
But stopp'd, and rested, by the third repell'd.  
Five plates of various metal, various mold,  
Compos'd the shield; of brass each outward fold, }  
Of tin each inward, and the middle gold: 320 }  
There stuck the lance. Then rising ere he threw,  
The forceful spear of great Achilles flew,

And pierc'd the Dardan shield's extremest bound,  
Where the shrill brass return'd a sharper sound :  
**T**hro' the thin verge the Pelean weapon glides, 325  
And the flight cov'ring of expanded hides.  
Æneas his contracted body bends,  
And o'er him high the riven targe extends,  
Sees, thro' its parting plates, the upper air,  
And at his back perceives the quiv'ring spear: 330  
A fate so near him, chills his soul with fright ;  
And swims before his eyes the many colour'd light.  
Achilles, rushing in with dreadful cries,  
Draws his broad blade, and at Æneas flies :  
Æneas, rousing as the foe came on, 335  
(With force collected), heaves a mighty stone :  
A mass enormous ! which in modern days  
No two of earth's degen'rate sons could raise.  
But ocean's God, whose earthquakes rock the ground,  
Saw the distress, and mov'd the pow'rs around. 340.

Lo ! on the brink of fate Æneas stands,  
An instant victim to Achilles' hands:  
By Phœbus urg'd ; but Phœbus has bestow'd  
His aid in vain : the man o'erpow'rs the God.  
And can ye see this righteous chief atone, 345  
With guiltless blood, for vices not his own ?  
To all the Gods his constant vows were paid :  
Sure, tho' he wars for Troy, he claims our aid.  
Fate wills not this ; nor thus can Jove resign  
The future father of the Dardan line : 350  
The first great ancestor obtain'd his grace,  
And still his love descends on all the race.  
For Priam now, and Priam's faithless kind,  
At length are odious to th' all seeing mind ;  
On great Æneas shall devolve the reign, 355  
And sons succeeding sons the lasting line sustain.  
The great earth shaker thus : to whom replies  
Th' imperial Goddess with the radiant eyes.

Good as he is, to immolate or spare  
The Dardan prince, O Neptune, be thy care;      360  
Pallas and I, by all that Gods can bind,  
Have sworn destruction to the Trojan kind;  
Not ev'n an instant to protract their fate,  
Or save one member of the sinking state;  
Till her last flame be quench'd with her last gore, 365  
And ev'n her crumbling ruins are no more.

The king of ocean to the fight descends,  
Thro' all the whistling darts his course he bends,  
Swift interpos'd between the warriors flies,  
And casts thick darkness o'er Achilles' eyes.      370  
From great Æneas' shield the spear he drew,  
And at its master's feet the weapon threw.  
That done, with force divine he snatch'd on high  
The Dardan prince, and bore him thro' the sky,  
Smooth-gliding without step, above the heads      375  
Of warring heroes, and of bounding steeds:  
Till at the battle's utmost verge they light,  
Where the slow Caucons close the rear of fight.  
The Godhead there (his heav'nly form confess'd)  
With words like these the panting chief address'd. 380

What pow'r, O prince! with force inferior far  
Urg'd thee to meet Achilles' arm in war?  
Henceforth beware, nor antedate thy doom,  
Defrauding fate of all thy fame to come.  
But when the day decreed (for come it must)      385  
Shall lay this dreadful hero in the dust,  
Let then the furies of that arm be known,  
Secure, no Grecian force transcends thy own.

With that, he left him wond'ring as he lay,  
Then from Achilles chas'd the mist away:      390  
Sudden, returning with the stream of light,  
The scene of war came rushing on his sight.  
Then thus, amaz'd: What wonders strike my mind!  
My spear, that parted on the wings of wind,

Laid here before me ! and the Dardan lord 395.

That fell this instant, vanish'd from my sword !

I thought alone with mortals to contend,

But pow'rs celestial sure this foe defend.

Great as he is, our arm he scarce will try,

Content for once, with all his Go's, to fly. 400.

Now then let others bleed — This said, aloud

He vents his fury, and inflames the croud :

O Greeks, (he cries, and ev'ry rank alarms),

Join battle, man to man, and arms to arms !

Tis not in me, tho' favour'd by the sky, 405

To mow whole troops, and make whole armies fly ;

No God can singly such a host engage,

Not Mars himself, nor great Minerva's rage.

But whatsoe'er Achilles can inspire,

Whate'er of active force, or acting fire ; 410

Whate'er this heart can prompt, or hand obey ;

All, all Achilles, Greeks ! is yours to day.

Through yon wide host this arm shall scatter fear,

And thin the squadrons with my single spear.

He said ; nor less elate with martial joy, 415

The godlike Hector warm'd the troops of Troy.

Trojans, to war ! think Hector leads you on ;

Nor dread the vaunts of Peleus' haughty son.

Deeds must decide our fate. Ev'n those with words

Insult the brave, who tremble at their swords ; 420

The weakest atheist wretch all heav'n defies,

But shrinks and shudders, when the thunder flies.

Nor from yon boaster shall your chief retire,

Not though his heart were steel, his hands were fire ;

That fire, that steel, your Hector should withstand, 425

And brave that vengeful heart, that dreadful hand.

Thus (breathing rage through all) the hero said :

A wood of lances rises round his head,

Clamours on clamours tempest all the air ;

They join, they throng, they thicken to the war. 430

But Phœbus warns him from high heav'n to shun  
 The single fight with Thetis' godlike son ;  
 More safe to combat in the mingled band,  
 Nor tempt too near the terrors of his hand.  
 He hears, obedient to the God of light, 455  
 And plung'd within the ranks, awaits the fight.

Then fierce Achilles, shouting to the skies,  
 On Troy's whole force with boundless fury flies.  
 First falls Iphytion, at his army's head ;  
 Brave was the chief, and brave the host he led ; 440  
 From great Otrynteus he deriv'd his blood,  
 His mother was a Naias of the flood ;  
 Beneath the shades of Tmolus, crown'd with snow,  
 From Hyde's walls he rul'd the lands below.  
 Fierce as he springs, the sword his head divides ; 445  
 The parted visage falls on equal sides :  
 With loud resounding arms he strikes the plain ;  
 While thus Achilles glories o'er the slain.

Lie there, Otryntides ! the Trojan earth  
 Receives thee dead, though Gygæ boast thy birth ; 450  
 Those beauteous fields where Hyllus' waves are roll'd,  
 And plenteous Hermus swells with tides of gold,  
 Are thine no more—Th' insulting hero said,  
 And left him sleeping in eternal shade.  
 The rolling wheels of Greece the body tore, 455  
 And dash'd their axles with no vulgar gore.

Demoleon next, Antenor's offspring, laid  
 Breathless in dust, the price of rashness paid.  
 Th' impatient steel, with full-descending sway  
 Forc'd through his brazen helm its furious way, 460  
 Resistless drove the batter'd scull before,  
 And dash'd and mingled all the brains with gore.  
 This sees Hippodamas, and seiz'd with fright,  
 Deserts his chariot for a twifter flight.  
 The lance arrests him : an ignoble wound 465  
 The panting Trojan rivets to the ground.

He groans away his soul: not louder roars  
 At Neptune's shrine on Helice's high shores  
 The victim bull; the rocks rebelow round,  
 And Ocean listens to the grateful sound.

570

Then fell on Polydore his vengeful rage,  
 The youngest hope of Priam's stooping age,  
 (Whose feet for swiftness in the race surpast),  
 Of all his sons, the dearest, and the last,

To the forbidden field he takes his flight

575

In the first folly of a youthful knight;  
 To vaunt his swiftness wheels around the plain,  
 But vaunts not long, with all his swiftness slain.  
 Struck where the crossing belts unite behind,

And golden rings the double back-plate join'd:

480

Forth through the navel burst the thrilling steel;  
 And on his knees with piercing shrieks he fell;  
 The rushing entrails pour'd upon the ground  
 His hands collect; and darkness wraps him round.

When Hector view'd, all ghastly in his gore

485

Thus sadly slain, th' unhappy Polydore;

A cloud of sorrow overcast his sight,  
 His soul no longer brook'd the distant fight,  
 Full in Achilles' dreadful front he came,  
 And shook his jav'lin like a waving flame.

490

The son of Peleus fees, with joy possest,  
 His heart high bounding in his rising breast:  
 And, lo! the man, on whom black fates attend,  
 The man, that flew Achilles, in his friend!

No more shall Hector's and Pelides' spear

495

Turn from each other in the walks of war—

Then with revengeful eyes he scann'd him o'er:  
 Come, and receive thy fate! he spake no more.

Hector, undaunted, thus: Such words employ  
 To one that dreads thee, some unwarlike boy:  
 Such we could give, defying and defy'd,  
 Mean intercourse of obloquy and pride!

I know thy force to mine superior far ;  
But heav'n alone confers success in war :  
Mean as I am, the Gods may guide my dart,      505  
And give it entrance in a braver heart.

Then parts the lance : but Pallas' heav'nly breath  
Far from Achilles wafts the winged death :  
The bidden dart again to Hector flies,  
And at the feet of its great master lies.      510  
Achilles closes with his hated foe,  
His heart and eyes with flaming fury glow :  
But present to his aid, Apollo shrouds  
The favour'd hero in a veil of clouds.  
Thrice struck Pelides with indignant heart,      515  
Thrice in impassive air he plung'd the dart :  
The spear a fourth time bury'd in the cloud ;  
He foams with fury, and exclaims aloud.

Wretch ! thou hast scap'd again ; once more thy flight  
Has sav'd thee, and the partial God of light.      520  
But long thou shalt not thy just fate withstand,  
If any pow'r : flit Achilles' hand.  
Fly then inglorious ! but thy flight this day  
Whole hecatombs of Trojan ghosts shall pay.

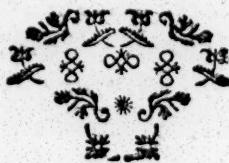
With that, he gluts his rage on numbers slain :      525  
Then Dryops tumbled to th' ensanguin'd plain,  
Pierc'd through the neck : he left him panting there,  
And stopp'd Demuchus, great Philetor's heir,  
Gigantic chief ! deep gash'd th' enormous blade,  
And for the soul an ample passage made.      530  
Laogonus and Dardanus expire,  
The valiant sons of an unhappy fire ;  
Both in one instant from the chariot hurl'd,  
Sunk in one instant to the nether world ;  
This diff'rence only their fad fates afford,      535  
That one the spear destroy'd, and one the sword.  
Nor less un pity'd, young Alastor bleeds :  
In vain his youth, in vain his beauty pleads :

In vain he begs thee, with a suppliant's moan,  
To spare a form, an age so like thy own ! 540  
Unhappy boy ! no pray'r, no moving art,  
E'er bent that fierce, inexorable heart !  
While yet he trembled at his knees, and cry'd,  
The ruthless faulchion op'd his tender side ;  
The panting liver pours a flood of gore 545  
That drowns his bosom till he pants no more.

Thro' Mulius' head then drove th' impetuous spear,  
The warrior falls, transfix'd from ear to ear.  
Thy life, Echeclus ! next the sword bereaves ;  
Deep thro' the front the pond'rous faulchion cleaves ;  
Warm'd in the brain the smoaking weapon lies, 551  
The purple death comes floating o'er his eyes.  
Then brave Deucalion dy'd : the dart was flung  
Where the knit nerves the pliant elbow strung ;  
He dropt his arm, an unassisting weight, 555  
And stood all impotent, expecting fate ;  
Full on his neck the falling faulchion sped,  
From his broad shoulders hew'd his crested head :  
Forth from the bone the spinal marrow flies,  
And sunk in dust, the corpse extended lies. 560  
Rhigmus, whose race from fruitful Thracia came,  
(The son of Pireus, an illustrious name),  
Succeeds to fate : the spear his belly rends ;  
Prone from his car the thund'ring chief descends :  
The squire, who saw expiring on the ground 565  
His prostrate master, rein'd the steeds around :  
His back scarce turn'd, the Pelean jav'lin gor'd ;  
And stretch'd the servant o'er his dying lord.  
As when a flame the winding valley fills,  
And runs on crackling shrubs between the hills ; 570  
Then o'er the stubble up the mountain flies,  
Fires the high woods, and blazes to the skies ;  
This way and that the spreading torrent roars :  
So sweeps the hero through the wasted shores ;

Around him wide, immense destruction pours, 575  
And earth is delug'd with the sanguine show'rs.

As with autumnal harvests cover'd o'er,  
And thick besrown, lies Ceres' sacred floor,  
When round and round, with never-weary'd pain,  
The trampling steers beat out th' unnumber'd grain :  
So the fierce coursers, as the chariot rolls, 581  
Tread down whole ranks, and crush out heroes souls.  
Dash'd from their hoofs, while o'er the dead they fly,  
Black, bloody drops the smoaking chariot dye:  
The spiky wheels through heaps of carnage tore ; 585  
And thick the groaning axles dropp'd with gore.  
High o'er the scene of death Achilles stood,  
All grim with dust, all horrible in blood :  
Yet still infatiate, still with rage on flame ;  
Such is the lust of never dying fame !





T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K      X X I.

T H E   A R G U M E N T.

**The battle in the river Scamander.**

*The Trojans fly before Achilles, some towards the town, others to the river Scamander: he falls upon the latter with great slaughter, takes twelve captives alive, to sacrifice to the shade of Patroclus; and kills Lycaon and Asteropæus. Scamander attacks him with all his waves; Neptune and Pallas assist the hero; Simois joins Scamander; at length Vulcan, by the instigation of Juno, almost dries up the river. This combat ended, the other Gods engage each other. Meanwhile Achilles continues the slaughter, drives the rest into Troy: Agenor only makes a stand, and is conveyed away in a cloud by Apollo; who (to delude Achilles) takes upon him Agenor's shape, and, while he pursues him in that disguise, gives the Trojans an opportunity of retiring into their city.*

The same day continues. The scene is on the banks  
and in the stream of Scamander.

AND now to Xanthus' gliding stream they drove,  
Xanthus, immortal progeny of Jove.  
The river here divides the flying train,  
Part to the town fly diverse o'er the plain,  
Where late their troops triumphant bore the fight, 5  
Now chas'd, and trembling in ignoble flight:  
(These with a gather'd mist Saturnia shrouds,  
And rolls behind the rout a heap of clouds):  
Part plunge into the stream; old Xanthus roars;  
The flashing billows beat the whiten'd shores: 10  
With cries promiscuous all the banks resound;  
And here and there in eddies whirling round,  
The flouncing steeds and shrieking warriors drown'd. }  
As the scorch'd locusts from their fields retire,  
While fast behind them runs the blaze of fire; 15  
Driv'n from the land before the smoaky cloud,  
The clattering legions rush into the flood:  
So plung'd in Xanthus by Achilles' force,  
Roars the resounding surge with men and horse.  
His bloody lance the hero casts aside, 20  
(Which spreading tam'risks on the margin hide).  
Then, like a God, the rapid billows braves,  
Arm'd with his sword, high brandish'd o'er the waves:  
Now down he plunges, now he whirls it round,  
Deep groan'd the waters with the dying sound; 25  
Repeated wounds the redd'ning river dy'd,  
And the warm purple circled on the tide.  
Swift thro' the foamy flood the Trojans fly,  
And close in rocks or winding caverns lie.  
So the huge dolphin tempesting the main, 30  
In shoals before him fly the scaly train,  
Confus'dly heap'd they seek their inmost caves,  
Or pant and heave beneath the floating waves.

## 190 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XXI.

Now tir'd with slaughter, from the Trojan band  
 Twelve chosen youths he drags alive to land;      35  
 With their rich belts their captive arms constrains,  
 (Late their proud ornaments, but now their chains).  
 These his attendants to the ships convey'd,  
 Sad victims! destin'd to Patroclus' shade.

Then, as once more he plung'd amid the flood,    40  
 The young Lycaon in his passage stood;  
 The son of Priam, whom the hero's hand  
 But late made captive in his father's land,  
 (As from a sycamore his sounding steel  
 Lopp'd the green arms to spoke a chariot-wheel), 45  
 To Lemnos isle he sold the royal slave,  
 Where Jason's son the price demanded gave;  
 But kind Eetion, touching on the shore,  
 The ransom'd prince to fair Arisbe bore.  
 Ten days were past, since in his father's reign    50  
 He felt the sweets of liberty again;  
 The next, that God whom men in vain withstand,  
 Gives the same youth to the same conqu'ring hand;  
 Now never to return! and doom'd to go  
 A sadder journey to the shades below.      55  
 His well-known face when great Achilles ey'd,  
 (The helm and visor he had cast aside  
 With wild affright, and dropp'd upon the field  
 His useless lance and unavailing shield).  
 As trembling, panting, from the stream he fled,    60  
 And knock'd his falt'ring knees, the hero said.

Ye mighty Gods! what wonders strike my view!  
 Is it in vain our conqu'ring arms subdue?  
 Sure I shall see yon heaps of Trojans kill'd,  
 Rise from the shades, and brave me on the field: 65  
 As now the captive, whom so late I bound  
 And sold to Lemnos, stalks on Trojan ground!  
 Not him the sea's unmeasur'd deeps detain,  
 That bar such numbers from their native plain:

Book XXI. H O M E R's I L I A D. 191

Lo ! he returns. Try, then, my flying spear! 70

Try, if the grave can hold the wanderer;

If earth at length this active prince can seize,

Earth, whose strong grasp has held down Hercules.

Thus while he spake, the Trojan pale with fears  
Approach'd, and sought his knees with suppliant tears;  
Loath as he was to yield his youthful breath, 75  
And his soul shiv'ring at the approach of death.

Achilles rais'd the spear, prepar'd to wound;  
He kiss'd his feet, extended on the ground:  
And while, above, the spear suspended stood, 80  
Longing to dip its thirsty point in blood,  
One hand embrac'd them close, one stopt the dart;  
While thus these melting words attempt his heart.

Thy well known captive, great Achilles ! see,  
Once more Lycaon trembles at thy knee. 85

Some pity to a suppliant's name afford,  
Who shar'd the gifts of Ceres at thy board;  
Whom late thy conqu'ring arm to Lemnos bore,  
Far from his father, friends, and native shore:  
A hundred oxen were his price that day, 90  
Now sums immense thy mercy shall repay.

Scarce respited from woes I yet appear,  
And scarce twelve morning suns have seen me here;  
Lo ! Jove again submits me to thy hands,  
Again her victim cruel fate demands! 95

I sprung from Priam, and Laothoe fair,  
(Old Alte's daughter, and Lelegia's heir;  
Who held in Pedaſus his fam'd abode,  
And rul'd the fields where silver Satnio flow'd).

Two sons (alas ! unhappy sons) she bore; 100 }  
For ah ! one spear shall drink each brother's gore,

And I succeed to slaughter'd Polydore.

How from that arm of terror shall I fly ?

Some dæmon urges ! 'tis my doom to die !

## 192 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XXI.

If ever yet soft pity touch'd thy mind, 105

Ah! think not me too much of Hector's kind!

Not the same mother gave thy suppliant breath,

With his, who wrought thy lov'd Patroclus' death.

These words, attended with a show'r of tears,  
The youth address'd to unrelenting ears. 110

Talk not of life, or ransom, (he replies),

Patroclus dead, whoever meets me, dies:

In vain a single Trojan sues for grace;

But least, the sons of Priam's hateful race.

Die then, my friend! what boots it to deplore? 115

The great, the good Patroclus is no more!

He, far thy better, was foredoom'd to die,

" And thou, dost thou, bewail mortality?"

Seest thou not me, whom nature's gifts adorn,

Sprung from a hero, from a Goddess born; 120

The day shall come (which nothing can avert)

When by the spear, the arrow, or the dart,

By night, or day, by force or by design,

Impending death and certain fate are mine.

Die then—he said: and as the word he spoke, 125

The fainting stripling sunk before the stroke:

His hand forgot its grasp, and left the spear;

While all his trembling frame confess'd his fear.

Sudden, Achilles his broad sword display'd,

And buried in his neck the reeking blade. 130

Prone fell the youth; and panting on the land,

The gushing purple dy'd the thirsty sand:

The victor to the stream the carcase gave,

And thus insults him, floating on the wave.

Lie there, Lycaon! let the fish surround 135

Thy bloated corse, and suck thy gory wound:

There no sad mother shall thy fun'ral weep,

But swift Scamander roll thee to the deep,

Whose ev'ry wave some wat'ry monster brings,

To feast unpunish'd on the fat of kings. 140

So perish Troy, and all the Trojan line !  
 Such ruin theirs, and such compassion mine.  
 What boots ye now Scamander's worshipp'd stream,  
 His earthly honours, and immortal name ?  
 In vain your immolated bulls are slain, 145  
 Your living coursers glut his gulfs in vain :  
 Thus he rewards you with this bitter fate ;  
 Thus, till the Grecian vengeance is complete ;  
 Thus is aton'd Patroclus' honour'd shade,  
 And the short absence of Achilles paid. 150

These boastful words provoke the raging God ;  
 With fury swells the violated flood.  
 What means divine may yet the pow'r employ,  
 To check Achilles, and to rescue Troy ?  
 Meanwhile the hero springs in arms, to dare 155  
 The great Asteropeus to mortal war ;  
 The son of Pelagon, whose losty line  
 Flows from the source of Axios, stream divine !  
 (Fair Peritaea's love the God had crown'd,  
 With all his reffluent waters circled round), 160  
 On him Achilles rush'd : he fearless stood,  
 And shook two spears, advancing from the flood ;  
 The flood impell'd him, on Pelides' head  
 T' avenge his waters chok'd with heaps of dead.  
 Near as they drew, Achilles thus began. 165

What art thou, boldest of the race of man ?  
 Who, or from whence ? Unhappy is the fire,  
 Whose son encounters our resistless ire  
 O son of Peleus ! what avails to trace  
 (Reply'd the warrior) our illustrious race ? 170  
 From rich Pæonia's valleys I command,  
 Arm'd with pretended spears, my native band.  
 Now shines the tenth bright morning since I came  
 In aid of Ilion to the fields of fame :  
 Axios, who swells with all the neighb'ring rills, 175  
 And wide around the floated region fills,

Begot my fire, whose spear such glory won :  
Now lift thy arm, and try that hero's son !

Threat'ning he said: the hostile chiefs advance :

At once Asteropeus discharg'd each lance, 180  
(For both his dexterous hands the lance could wield);  
One struck, but pierc'd not the Vulcanian shield ;  
One raiz'd Achilles' hand ; the spouting blood  
Spun forth ; in earth the fasten'd weapon stood.

Like lightning next the Pelian jav'lin flies : 185  
Its erring fury hiss'd along the skies :

Deep in the swelling bank was driv'n the spear,  
Ev'n to the middle earth'd ; and quiver'd there.  
Then from his side the sword Pelides drew,  
And on his foe with doubled fury flew. 190

The foe thrice tugg'd, and shook the rooted wood ;  
Repulsive of his might the weapon stood :

The fourth, he tries to break the spear, in vain ;  
Bent as he stands, he tumbles to the plain ;

His belly open'd with a ghastly wound, 195  
The reeking entrails pour upon the ground.

Beneath the hero's feet he panting lies,  
And his eye darkens, and his spirit flies :

While the proud victor thus triumphing said,  
His radiant armour tearing from the dead : 200

So ends thy glory ! such the fate they prove  
Who strive presumptuous with the sons of Jove.

Sprung from a river, didst thou boast thy line ?  
But great Saturnius is the source of mine.

How durst thou vaunt thy wat'ry progeny ? 205  
Of Peleus, Æacus, and Jove, am I ;

The race of these superior far to those,  
As he that thunders, to the stream that flows.

What rivers can, Scamander might have shown ;  
But Jove he dreads, nor wars against his son. 210

Ev'n Achelous might contend in vain,  
And all the roaring billows of the main.

Th' eternal Ocean, from whose fountains flow  
The seas, the rivers, and the springs below,  
The thund'ring voice of Jove abhors to hear,      215  
And in his deep abysses shakes with fear.

He said ; then from the bank the jav'lin tore,  
And left the breathless warrior in his gore.  
The floating tides the bloody carcase lave,  
And beat against it, wave succeeding wave ;      220  
Till roll'd between the banks, it lies, the food  
Of curling eels, and fishes of the flood.  
All scatter'd round the stream (their mightiest slain)  
Th' amaz'd Pæonians scour along the plain :  
He vents his fury on the flying crew,      225  
Thrasius, Altypylus, and Mnesus flew ;  
Mydon, Thersilochus, with Ænius fell ;  
And numbers more his lance had plung'd to hell ;  
But from the bottom of his gulfs profound  
Scamander spoke ; the shores return'd the sound. 230

O first of mortals ! (for the Gods are thine),  
In valour matchless, and in force divine !  
If Jove have giv'n thee ev'ry Trojan head,  
'Tis not on me thy rage should heap the dead.  
See ! my chok'd streams no more their course can keep,  
Nor roll their wonted tribute to the deep.      236  
Turn then impetuous from our injur'd flood ;  
Content, thy slaughter could amaze a God.

In human form, confess'd before his eyes,  
The river thus ; and thus the chief replies.      240  
O sacred stream ! thy word we shall obey ;  
But not till Troy the destin'd vengeance pay,  
Not till within her tow'rs the perjur'd train  
Shall pant, and tremble at our arms again :  
Not till proud Hector, guardian of her wall,      245  
Or stain his lance, or see Achilles fall.

He said ; and drove with fury on the foe.  
Then to the Godhead of the silver bow

The yellow flood began: O son of Jove!  
Was not the mandate of the fire above 250  
Full and express, that Phœbus should employ  
His sacred arrows in defence of Troy,  
And make her conquer, till Hyperion's fall  
In awful darkness hide the face of all?  
He spoke in vain—the chief without dismay 255  
Ploughs thro' the boiling surge his desp'rare way.  
Then rising in his rage above the shores,  
From all his deep the bellowing river roars,  
Huge heaps of slain disgorges on the coast,  
And round the banks the ghastly dead are tost. 260  
While all before, the billows rang'd on high  
(A wat'ry bulwark) screen the bands who fly.  
Now bursting on his head with thund'ring sound,  
The falling deluge whelms the hero round:  
His loaded shield bends to the rushing tide; 265  
His feet, upborn, scarce the strong flood divide,  
Slidd'ring, and stagg'ring. On the border stood  
A spreading elm, that overhung the flood:  
He seiz'd a bending bough, his steps to stay;  
The plant uprooted to his weight gave way, 270  
Heaving the bank, and undermining all;  
Loud flash the waters to the rushing fall  
Of the thick foliage. The large trunk display'd  
Bridg'd the rough flood across: the hero stay'd  
On this his weight, and rais'd upon his hand, 275  
Leap'd from the channel, and regain'd the land.  
Then blacken'd the wild waves; the murmur rose;  
The God pursues, a huger billow throws,  
And bursts the bank, ambitious to destroy  
The man whose fury is the fate of Troy. 280  
He, like the warlike eagle, speeds his pace,  
(Swiftest and strongest of th'aereal race);  
Far as a spear can fly, Achilles springs  
At ev'ry bound; his clanging armour rings:

Book XXI. H O M E R's I L I A D: 197

Now here, now there, he turns on ev'ry side, 285

And winds his course before the following tide;

The waves flow after, whereto'er he wheels,

And gather fast, and murmur at his heels.

So when a peasant to his garden brings

Soft rills of water from the bubbling springs, 290

And calls the floods from high, to bless his bow'rs,

And feed with pregnant streams the plants and flow'rs;

Soon as he clears whate'er their passage staid,

And marks the future current with his spade,

Swift o'er the rolling pebbles, down the hills 295

Louder and louder purl the falling rills;

Before him scatt'ring, they prevent his pains,

And shine in mazy wand'rings o'er the plains.

Still flies Achilles, but before his eyes

Still swift Scamander rolls where e'er he flies: 300

Not all his speed escapes the rapid floods;

The first of men, but not a match for Gods.

Oft as he turn'd the torrent to oppose,

And bravely try if all the pow'rs were foes;

So oft the surge, in wat'ry mountains spread, 305

Beat on his back, or burst upon his head.

Yet dauntless still the adverse flood he braves,

And still indignant bounds above the waves.

Tir'd by the tides, his knees relax with toil;

Wash'd from beneath him slides the slimy soil; 310

When thus (his eyes on heav'n's expansion thrown)

Forth bursts the hero with an angry groan.

Is there no God Achilles to befriend,

No pow'r t' avert his miserable end?

Prevent, oh Jove! this ignominious date,

315

And make my future life the sport of fate.

Of all heav'n's oracles believ'd in vain,

But most of Thetis must her son complain;

By Phœbus' darts she prophesy'd my fall,

In glorious arms before the Trojan wall. 320

Oh ! had I dy'd in fields of battle warm,  
Stretch'd like a hero by a hero's arm !  
Might Hector's spear this dauntless bosom rend,  
And my swift soul o'ertake my slaughter'd friend !  
Ah no ! Achilles meets a shameful fate,      325  
Oh how unworthy of the brave and great !  
Like some vile swain, whom, on a rainy day,  
Crossing a ford, the torrent sweeps away,  
An unregarded carcase, to the sea.      } }

Neptune and Pallas haste to his relief,      330

And thus in human form address the chief :

The pow'r of ocean first : Forbear thy fear,

Oh son of Peleus ! Lo, thy Gods appear !

Behold ! from Jove descending to thy aid,

Propitious Neptune, and the blue ey'd maid.      335

Stay, and the furious flood shall cease to rave :

'Tis not thy fate to glut his angry wave.

But thou the counsel heav'n suggests attend !

Nor breathe from combat, nor thy sword suspend,

Till Troy receive her flying sons, till all      340

Her routed squadrons pant behind their wall :

Hector alone shall stand his fatal chance,

And Hector's blood shall smoke upon thy lance.

Thine is the glory doom'd. Thus spake the Gods :

Then swift ascended to the bright abodes.      345

Stung with new ardour, thus by heav'n impell'd,

He springs impetuous, and invades the field :

O'er all th' expanded plain the waters spread ;

Heav'd on the bounding billows danc'd the dead,

Floating 'midst scatter'd arms ; while casques of gold

And turn'd up bucklers glitter'd as they roll'd.      351

High o'er the surging tide, by leaps and bounds,

He wades, and mounts ; the parted wave resounds.

Not a whole river stops the hero's course,

While Pallas fills him with immortal force.      355



With equal rage indignant Xanthus roars,  
And lifts his billows, and o'erwhelms his shores.

Then thus to Simois : Haste, my brother flood !  
And check this mortal that controls a God :  
Our bravest heroes else shall quit the fight, 360  
And Ilion tumble from her tow'ry height.  
Call then thy subject streams, and bid them roar ;  
From all thy fountains swell thy wat'ry store ;  
With broken rocks, and with a load of dead  
Charge the black surge, and pour it on his head. 365  
Mark how restless through the floods he goes,  
And boldly bids the warring Gods be foes !  
But nor that force, nor form divine to fight  
Shall ought avail him, if our rage unite :  
Whelm'd under our dark gulfs those arms shall lie, 370  
That blaze so dreadful in each Trojan eye ;  
And deep beneath a sandy mountain hurl'd,  
Immers'd remain this terror of the world.  
Such pond'rous ruin shall confound the place,  
No Greek shall e'er his perish'd relics grace ; 375  
No hand his bones shall gather or inhume ;  
These his cold rites, and this his wat'ry tomb.

He said ; and on the chief descends amain,  
Increas'd with gore, and swelling with the slain.  
Then murmur'ring from his beds, he boils, he raves, 380  
And a foam whitens on the purple waves :  
At ev'ry step, before Achilles stood  
The crimson surge, and delug'd him with blood.  
Fear touch'd the queen of heav'n : she saw dismay'd,  
She call'd aloud, and summon'd Vulcan's aid. 385

Rise to the war ! th' insulting flood requires  
Thy wasteful arm : assemble all thy fires !  
While to their aid by our command injoin'd,  
Rush the swift eastern and the western wind :  
These from old ocean at my word shall blow, 390  
Pour the red torrent on the wat'ry foe,

Corses and arms to one bright ruin turn,  
And hissing rivers to their bottoms burn.  
Go, mighty in thy rage ! display thy pow'r,  
Drink the whole flood, the crackling trees devour ; 395  
Scorch all the banks ! and (till our voice reclaim)  
Exert th'unweary'd furies of the flame !

The pow'r ignipotent her word obeys :  
Wide o'er the plain he pours the boundless blaze ;  
At once consumes the dead, and dries the foil ; 400  
And the shrunk waters in their channel boil,  
As when autumnal Boreas sweeps the sky,  
And instant blows the water'd gardens dry :  
So look'd the field, so whiten'd was the ground,  
While Vulcan breath'd the fiery blast around. 405  
Swift on the sedgy reeds the ruin preys ;  
Along the margin winds the running blaze :  
The trees in flaming rows to ashes turn,  
The flow'ry lotos and the tam'risk burn,  
Broad elm, and cypress rising in a spire ; 410  
The wat'ry willows hiss before the fire.  
Now glow the waves, the fishes pant for breath,  
The eels lie twisting in the pangs of death :  
Now flounce aloft, now dive the scaly fry,  
Or gasping, turn their bellies to the sky. 415  
At length the river rear'd his languid head,  
And thus, short panting, to the God he said.

Oh Vulcan ! oh ! what pow'r resists thy might ?  
I faint, I sink, unequal to the fight —  
I yield — Let Ilion fall ; if fate decree — 420  
Ah — bend no more thy fiery arms on me !

He ceas'd ; wide conflagration blazing round ;  
The bubbling waters yield a hissing sound.  
As when the flames beneath a caldron rise,  
To melt the fat of some rich sacrifice, 425  
Amid the fierce embrace of circling fires  
The waters foam, the heavy smoke aspires :

So boils th' imprison'd flood, forbid to flow,  
And chok'd with vapours, feels his bottom glow.

To Juno then, imperial queen of air, 430  
The burning river sends his earnest pray'r.

Ah why, Saturnia ! must thy son engage  
Me, only me, with all his wasteful rage ?  
On other Gods his dreadful arm employ,  
For mightier Gods assert the cause of Troy. 435

Submissive I desist, if thou command :  
But ah ! withdraw this all-destroying hand.  
Hear then my solemn oath, to yield to fate -  
Unaided Ilion, and her destin'd state,  
Till Greece shall gird her with destructive flame, 440  
And in one ruin sink the Trojan name.

His warm entreaty touch'd Saturnia's ear :  
She bad th' Ignipotent his rage forbear,  
Recall the flame, nor in a mortal cause  
Infest a God : th' obedient flame withdraws. 445  
Again the branching streams begin to spread,  
And soft remurmur in their wonted bed.

While these by Juno's will the strife resign,  
The warring Gods in fierce contention join :  
Rekindling rage each heav'nly breast alarms ; 450  
With horrid clangour shock'd th' æthereal arms :  
Heav'n in loud thunder bids the trumpet sound ;  
And wide beneath them groans the rending ground.  
Jove, as his sport, the dreadful scene descries,  
And views contending Gods with careless eyes. 455  
The pow'r of battle lifts his brazen spear,  
And first assaults the radiant queen of war.

What mov'd thy madness, thus to disunite  
Æthereal minds, and mix all heav'n in fight ?  
What wonder this, when in thy frantic mood 460  
Thou drov'st a mortal to insult a God ?  
Thy impious hand Tydides' jav'lin bore,  
And madly bath'd it in celestial gore.

He spoke, and smote the loud resounding shield,  
 Which bears Jove's thunder on its dreadful field ; 465  
 The adamantine ægis of her fire,  
 That turns the glancing bolt, and forked fire.  
 Then heav'd the Goddess in her mighty hand  
 A stone, the limit of the neighb'ring land,  
 There fix'd from eldest times ; black, craggy, vast :  
 This at the heav'nly homicide she cast. 471  
 Thund'ring he falls ; a mass of monstrous size,  
 And sev'n broad acres covers as he lies.  
 The stunning stroke his stubborn nerves unbound ;  
 Loud o'er the fields his ringing arms resound : 475  
 The scornful dame her conquest views with smiles,  
 And glorying thus, the prostrate God reviles.

Hast thou not yet, infatiate fury ! known  
 How far Minerva's force transcends thy own ?  
 Juno, whom thou rebellious dar'st withstand, 480  
 Corrects thy folly thus by Pallas' hand ;  
 Thus meets thy broken faith with just disgrace,  
 And partial aid to Troy's perfidious race.

The Goddess spoke, and turn'd her eyes away,  
 That beaming round, diffus'd celestial day. 485  
 Jove's Cyprian daughter, stooping on the land,  
 Lent to the wounded God her tender hand :  
 Slowly he rises, scarcely breathes with pain,  
 And propt on her fair arm, forsakes the plain.  
 This the bright empress of the heav'ns survey'd, 490  
 And scoffing thus, to war's victorious maid.

Lo ! what an aid on Mars's side is seen !  
 The Smiles and Love's unconquerable Queen !  
 Mark with what insolence, in open view,  
 She moves : let Pallas, if she dares, pursue. 495

Minerva smiling heard, the pair o'ertook,  
 And slightly on her breast the wanton strook :  
 He, unresisting, fell ; (her spirits fled) ;  
 A earth together lay the lovers spread.

And like those heroes, be the fate of all  
 (Minerva cries) who guard the Trojan wall! 500  
 To Grecian Gods such let the Phrygian be,  
 So dread, so fierce, as Venus is to me;  
 Then from the lowest stone shall Troy be mov'd—  
 Thus she, and Juno with a smile approv'd. 505

Meantime, to mix in more than mortal fight,  
 The God of ocean dares the God of light.  
 What sloth has feiz'd us, when the fields around  
 Ring with conflicting pow'rs, and heav'n returns the  
 sound?

Shall, ignominious, we with shame retire, 510  
 No deed perform'd, to our Olympian fire?  
 Come, prove thy arm! for first the war to wage,  
 Suits not my greatness, or superior age.

Rash as thou art to prop the Trojan throne,  
 (Forgetful of my wrongs, and of thy own), 515  
 And guard the race of proud Laomedon!

Hast thou forgot, how, at the monarch's pray'r,  
 We shar'd the lengthen'd labours of a year?

Troy walls I rais'd, (for such were Jove's commands),  
 And yon proud bulwarks grew beneath my hands: 520  
 Thy task it was to feed the bellowing droves

Along fair Ida's vales, and pendent groves.

But when the circling seasons in their train  
 Brought back the grateful day that crown'd our pain;  
 With menace stern the fraudful king defy'd 525

Our latent Godhead, and the prize deny'd:

Mad as he was, he threaten'd servile bands,  
 And doom'd us exiles far in barb'rous lands.

Incens'd, we heav'nward fled with swiftest wing,  
 And destin'd vengeance on the perjur'd king. 530

Dost thou, for this, afford proud Ilion grace,  
 And not, like us, infest the faithless race?

Like us, their present, future sons destroy,  
 And from its deep foundations heave their Troy?

Apollo thus: To combat for mankind 535

Ill suits the wisdom of celestial mind:  
For what is man? Calamitous by birth,  
They owe their life and nourishment to earth;  
Like yearly leaves, that now, with beauty crown'd,  
Smile on the sun; now wither on the ground. 540  
To their own hands commit the frantic scene,  
Nor mix immortals in a cause so mean.

Then turns his face, far beaming heav'nly fires,  
And from the senior pow'r, submiss retires.

Him, thus retreating, Artemis upbraids, 545  
The quiver'd huntress of the sylvan shades.

And is it thus the youthful Phœbus flies,  
And yields to ocean's hoary fire the prize?  
How vain that martial pomp and dreadful show  
Of pointed arrows, and the silver bow! 550  
Now boast no more, in yon celestial bow'r,  
Thy force can match the great earth shaking pow'r.

Silent, he heard the queen of woods upbraid:  
Not so Saturnia bore the vaunting maid;  
But furious thus: What insolence has driv'n 555  
Thy pride to face the majesty of heav'n?  
What tho' by Jove the plague design'd,  
Fierce to the feeble race of woman-kind,  
The wretched matron feels thy piercing dart;  
Thy sex's tyrant, with a tyger's heart? 560  
What tho' tremendous in the woodland chace,  
Thy certain arrows pierce the savage race?  
How dares thy rashness on the pow'rs divine  
Employ those arms, or match thy force with mine?  
Learn hence, no more unequal war to wage— 565  
She said, and seiz'd her wrists with eager rage;  
These in her left hand lock'd, her right unty'd  
The bow, the quiver, and its plumy pride.  
About her temples flies the busy bow;  
Now here, now there, she winds her from the blow;

The scatt'ring arrows rattling from the case, 571  
 Drop round, and idly mark the dusty place.

Swift from the field the baffled huntress flies,  
 And scarce restrains the torrent in her eyes.

So, when the falcon wings her way above, 575  
 To the cleft cavern speeds the gentle dove,  
 (Not fated yet to die), there safe retreats,  
 Yet still her heart against the marble beats.

To her Latona hastens with tender care;  
 Whom Hermes viewing, thus declines the war. 580  
 How shall I face the dame who gives delight  
 To him whose thunders blacken heav'n with night?  
 Go, matchless Goddess! triumph in the skies,  
 And boast my conquest, while I yield the prize.

He spoke, and pass'd : Latona, stooping low, 585  
 Collects the scatter'd shafts, and fallen bow,  
 That, glitt'ring in the dust, lay here and there;  
 Dishonour'd relics of Diana's war:  
 Then swift pursu'd her to her bless'd abode,  
 Where, all confus'd, she sought the Sov'reign God;  
 Weeping she grasp'd his knees; th' ambrosial vest 591  
 Shook with her sighs, and panted on her breast.

The fire superior smil'd; and bade her shew  
 What heav'nly hand had caus'd his daughter's wo?  
 Abash'd, she names his own imperial spouse; 595  
 And the pale crescent fades upon her brows.

Thus they above: while swiftly gliding down,  
 Apollo enters Ilion's sacred town:  
 The Guardian-God now trembled for her wall,  
 And fear'd the Greeks, tho' fate forbade her fall. 600  
 Back to Olympus, from the war's alarms,  
 Return the shining bands of Gods in arms;  
 Some proud in triumph, some with rage on fire.  
 And take their thrones around th' æthereal fire.

Thro' blood, thro' death, Achilles still proceeds,  
 O'er slaughter'd heroes, and o'er rolling steeds. 606

As when avenging flames with fury driv'n  
 On guilty towns exert the wrath of heav'n ;  
 The pale inhabitants, some fall, some fly ;  
 And the red vapours purple all the sky :      610  
 So rag'd Achilles: death and dire dismay,  
 And toils, and terrors, fill'd the dreadful day.

High on a turret hoary Priam stands,  
 And marks the waste of his destructive hands ;  
 Views, from his arm, the Trojans scatter'd flight,    615  
 And the near hero rising on his sight !  
 No stop, no check, no aid ! With feeble pace,  
 And settled sorrow on his aged face,  
 Fast as he could, he sighing quits the walls :  
 And thus, descending, to the gnards he calls.    620

You to whose care our city gates belong,  
 Set wide your portals to the flying throng :  
 For lo ! he comes, with unresisted sway ;  
 He comes, and desolation marks his way !  
 But when within the walls our troops take breath,    625  
 Lock fast the brazen bars, and shut out death.  
 Thus charg'd the rev'rend monarch : wide were hung  
 The op'ning folds; the sounding hinges rung.  
 Phœbus rush'd forth, the flying bands to meet,  
 Struck slaughter back, and cover'd the retreat.    630  
 On heaps the Trojans croud to gain the gate,  
 And gladsome see their last escape from fate.  
 Thither, all parch'd with thirst, a heartlefs train !  
 Hoary with dust, they beat the hollow plain :  
 And gasping, panting, fainting, labour on      635  
 With heavier strides, that lengthen tow'rds the town.  
 Enrag'd Achilles follows with his spear;  
 Wild with revenge, infatiable of war.

Then had the Greeks eternal praise acquir'd,  
 And Troy inglorious to her walls retir'd;      640  
 But † he, the God who darts æthereal flame,  
 Shot down to save her, and redeem her fame.

† Apollo.

To young Agenor force divine he gave,  
 (Antenor's offspring, haughty, bold, and brave);  
 In aid of him, beside the beech he sat, 645  
 And, wrapt in clouds, restrain'd the hand of fate.  
 When now the gen'rous youth Achilles spies,  
 Thick bears his heart, the troubled motions rise,  
 (So, ere a storm, the waters heave and roll);  
 He stops, and questions thus his mighty soul. 650

What shall I fly this terror of the plain?  
 Like others fly, and be like others slain?  
 Vain hope! to shun him by the self-same road  
 You line of slaughter'd Trojans lately trod.  
 No: with the common heap I scorn to fall — 655  
 What if they pass'd me to the Trojan wall,  
 While I decline to yonder path that leads  
 To Ida's forest and surrounding shades?  
 So may I reach, conceal'd, the cooling flood,  
 From my tir'd body wash the dirt and blood, 660  
 As soon as night her dusky veil extends,  
 Return in safety to my Trojan friends.

What if — But wherefore all this vain debate?  
 Stand I to doubt within the reach of fate?  
 Ev'n now perhaps, ere yet I turn the wall, 665  
 The fierce Achilles sees me, and I fall:  
 Such is his swiftness, 'tis in vain to fly;  
 And such his valour, that who stands must die.  
 Howe'er 'tis better, fighting for the state,  
 Here, and in public view to meet my fate. 670  
 Yet sure he too is mortal; he may feel  
 (Like all the sons of earth) the force of steel;  
 One only soul informs that dreadful frame;  
 And Jove's sole favour gives him all his fame.

He said, and stood, collected in his might; 675  
 And all his beating bosom claim'd the fight.  
 So from some deep-grown wood a panther starts,  
 Rous'd from his thicket by a storm of darts:

Untaught to fear or fly, he hears the sounds  
 Of shouting hunters, and of clamorous hounds; 680  
 Tho' struck, tho' wounded, scarce perceives the pain;  
 And the barb'd jav'lin stings his breast in vain:  
 On their whole war, untam'd, the savage flies;  
 And tears his hunter, or beneath him dies.  
 Not less resolv'd, Antenor's valiant heir 685  
 Conflicts Achilles, and awaits the war,  
 Disdainful of retreat: high-held before,  
 His shield (a broad circumference) he bore;  
 Then graceful as he stood, in act to throw  
 The lifted jav'lin, thus bespoke the foe. 690

How proud Achilles glories in his fame!  
 And hopes this day to sink the Trojan name  
 Beneath her ruins! Know that hope is vain;  
 A thousand woes, a thousand toils remain.  
 Parents and children our jut arms employ, 695  
 And strong and many are the sons of Troy.  
 Great as thou art, ev'n thou mayst stain with gore  
 These Phrygian fields, and press a foreign shore.

He said: with matchless force the jav'lin flung  
 Smote on his knee; the hollow cuishes rung 700  
 Beneath the pointed steel; but safe from harms  
 He stands impassive in th' aethereal arms,  
 Then fiercely rushing on the daring foe,  
 His lifted arm prepares the fatal blow:  
 But, jealous of his fame, Apollo shrouds 705  
 The godlike Trojan in a veil of clouds.  
 Safe from pursuit, and shut from mortal view,  
 Dismiss'd with fame, the favour'd youth withdrew.  
 Meanwhile the God, to cover their escape,  
 Assumes Agenor's habit, voice and shape, 710  
 Flies from the furious chief in this disguise;  
 The furious chief still follows where he flies.  
 Now o'er the fields they stretch with lengthen'd strides,  
 Now urge the course where swift Scamander glides:

Book XXI. H O M E R's I L I A D. 209

The God now distant scarce a stride before, 715

Tempts his pursuit, and wheels about the shore;

While all the flying troops their speed employ,

And pour on heaps into the walls of Troy.

No stop, no stay; no thought to ask, or tell,

Who 'scap'd by flight, or who by battle fell. 720

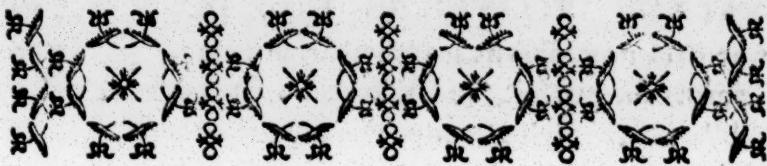
'Twas tumult all, and violence of flight;

And sudden joy confus'd, and mix'd affright:

Pale Troy against Achilles shuts her gate;

And nations breathe, deliver'd from their fate,





T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K XXII.

T H E A R G U M E N T.

The death of Hector.

*The Trojans being safe within the walls, Hector only stays to oppose Achilles. Priam is struck at his approach, and tries to persuade his son to re enter the town. Hecuba joins her entreaties, but in vain. Hector consults within himself what measures to take; but, at the advance of Achilles his resolution fails him, and he flies: Achilles pursues him thrice round the walls of Troy. The Gods debate concerning the fate of Hector; at length Minerva descends to the aid of Achilles. She deludes Hector in the shape of Deiphobus: he stands the combat, and is slain. Achilles drags the dead body at his chariot, in the sight of Priam and Hecuba. Their lamentations, tears, and despair. Their cries reach the ears of Andromache, who ignorant of this, was retired into the inner part of the palace: she mounts up to the walls, and beholds her dead husband. She swoons at the spectacle. Her excess of grief and lamentation.*

The thirtieth day still continues. The scene lies under the walls, and on the battlements of Troy.

Thus to their bulwarks, smit with panic fear,  
The herded Ilians rush like driven deer;  
There safe, they wipe the briny drops away,  
And drown in bowls the labours of the day.  
Close to the walls, advancing o'er the fields,  
Beneath one roof of well compacted shields, 5  
March, bending on, the Greeks embody'd pow'rs,  
Far stretching in the shade of Trojan tow'rs.  
Great Hector singly staid; chain'd down by fate,  
There fix'd he stood before the Scæan gate; 10  
Still his bold arms determin'd to employ,  
The guardian still of long defended Troy.

Apollo now to tir'd Achilles turns;  
(The pow'r confess'd in all his glory burns);  
And what (he cries) has Peleus' son in view, 15  
With mortal speed a Godhead to pursue?  
For not to thee to know the Gods is giv'n,  
Unskill'd to trace the latent marks of heav'n.  
What boots thee now, that Troy forsook the plain?  
Vain thy past labour, and thy present vain: 20  
Safe in their walls are now her troops bestow'd,  
While here thy frantic rage attacks a God.

The chief, incens'd—Too partial God of day!  
To check my conquests in the middle way:  
How few in Ilion else had refuge found? 25  
What gasping numbers now had bit the ground?  
Thou robb'st me of a glory justly mine,  
Pow'rful of Godhead, and of fraud divine:  
Mean fame, alas! for one of heav'nly strain,  
To cheat a mortal, who repines in vain. 30  
Then to the city terrible and strong,  
With high and haughty steps he tow'r'd along.

So the proud courser, victor of the prize,  
 To the near goal with double ardour flies.  
 Him, as he blazing shot across the field,      35  
 The careful eyes of Priam first beheld.  
 Not half so dreadful rises to the sight,  
 Thro' the thick gloom of some tempestuous night,  
 Orion's dog, (the year when Autumn weighs),  
 And o'er the feebler stars exerts his rays;      40  
 Terrific glory! for his burning breath  
 Taints the red air with fevers, plagues, and death.  
 So flam'd his fiery mail. Then wept the sage;  
 He strikes his rev'rend head now white with age;  
 He lifts his wither'd arms; obtests the skies;      45  
 He calls his much lov'd son with feeble cries:  
 The son, resolv'd Achilles' force to dare,  
 Full at the Scæan gates expects the war;  
 While the sad father on the rampart stands,  
 And thus adjures him with extended hands.      50

Ah stay not, stay not! guardless and alone;  
 Hector! my lov'd, my dearest, bravest son!  
 Methinks already I behold thee slain,  
 And stretch'd beneath that fury of the plain.  
 Implacable Achilles! mightst thou be      55  
 To all the Gods no dearer than to me!  
 Thee vultures wild should scatter round the shore,  
 And bloody dogs grow fiercer from thy gore.  
 How many valiant sons I late enjoy'd,  
 Valiant in vain! by thy curs'd arm destroy'd;      60  
 Or, worse than slaughter'd, sold in distant isles  
 To shameful bondage and unworthy toils.  
 Two, while I speak, my eyes in vain explore,  
 Two from one mother sprung, my Polydore,  
 And lov'd Lycaon; now perh aps no more!      65  
 Oh! if in yonder hostile camp they live,  
 What heaps of gold, what treasures would I give? }

Book XXII. HOMER'S ILIAD. 213

(Their grandsire's wealth, by right of birth their own,  
Consign'd his daughter with Lelegia's throne).

But if (which heav'n forbid) already lost, 70

All pale they wander on the Stygian coast;

What sorrows then must their sad mother know,

What anguish I ? unutterable wo !

Yet less that anguish, less to her, to me,

Less to all Troy, if not depriv'd of thee. 75

Yet shun Achilles ! enter yet the wall ;

And spare thyself, thy father, spare us all !

Save thy dear life ; or it a soul so brave

Neglect that thought, thy dearer glory save.

Pity, while yet I live, these silver hairs ; 80

While yet thy father feels the woes he bears,

Yet curs'd with sense ! a wretch, whom in his rage

(All trembling on the verge of helpless age)

Great Jove has plac'd, sad spectacle of pain !

The bitter dregs of fortune's cup to drain ; 85

To fill with scenes of death his closing eyes,

And number all his days by miseries !

My heroes slain, my b'idal bed o'erturn'd,

My daughters ravish'd, and my city burn'd,

My bleeding infants dash'd against the floor ; 90

These I have yet to see, per'aps yet more !

Perhaps ev'n I, reserv'd by angry fate

The last sad relic of my ruin'd state,

(Dire pomp of sov'reign wretchedness !), must fall,

And stain the pavement of my regal hall ; 95

Where famish'd dogs, late guardians of my door,

Shall lick their mangled master's spatter'd gore.

Yet for my sons I thank ye Gods ! 'twas well ;

Well have they perish'd, for in fight they fell.

Who dies in youth and vigour, dies the best, 100

Struck through with wounds, all honest on the breast.

But when the fates, in fullness of their rage,

Spurn the hoar head of unresisting age,

## 214 HOMER'S ILIAD. [Book XXII.]

In dust the rev'rend lineaments deform,  
And pour to dogs the life-blood scarcely warm ! 105  
This, this is misery ! the last, the worst  
That man can feel ; man, fated to be curst !

He said ; and acting what no words could say,  
Rent from his head the silver locks away.  
With him the mournful mother bears a part ; 110  
Yet all their sorrows turn not Hector's heart :  
The zone unbrac'd, her bosom she display'd ;  
And thus, fast falling the salt tears, she said.

Have mercy on me, O my son ! revere  
The words of age ; attend a parent's pray'r ! 115  
If ever thee in these fond arms I prest,  
Or still'd thy infant clamours at this breast ;  
Ah do not thus our helpless years forego !  
But by our walls secur'd, repel the foe.  
Against his rage if singly thou proceed, 120  
Shouldst thou (but heav'n avert it !), shouldst thou  
bleed,  
Nor must thy corpse lie honour'd on the bier,  
Nor spouse, nor mother, grace thee with a tear ;  
Far from our pious rites, those dear remains  
Must feast the vultures on the naked plains. 125

So they, while down their cheeks the torrents roll ;  
But fix'd remains the purpose of his soul :  
Resolv'd he stands, and with a fiery glance  
Expect's the hero's terrible advance.  
So roll'd up in his den, the swelling snake 130  
Beholds the traveller approach the brake ;  
When fed with noxious herbs, his turgid veins  
Have gather'd half the poisons of the plains ;  
He burns, he stiffens with collected ire,  
And his red eye-balls glare with living fire. 135  
Beneath a turret, on his shield reclin'd,  
He stood, and question'd thus his mighty mind :

Where lies my way? to enter in the wall?  
 Honour and shame th' ungen'rous thought recall:  
 Shall proud Polydamas before the gate      140  
 Proclaim, his council's are obey'd too late,  
 Which timely follow'd but the former night,  
 What numbers had been fav'd by Hector's flight?  
 That wise advice rejected with disdain,  
 I feel my folly in my people slain.      145  
 Methinks my suff'ring country's voice I hear,  
 But most, her worthless sons insult my ear,  
 On my rash courage charge the chance of war,  
 And blame those virtues which they cannot share.  
 No—if I e'er return, return I must      150  
 Glorious, my country's terror laid in dust:  
 Or if I perish, let her see me fall  
 In field at least, and fighting for her wall.  
 And yet suppose these measures I forego,  
 Approach unarm'd, and parley with the foe,      155  
 The warrior shield, the helm, and lance lay down,  
 And treat on terms of peace to save the town:  
 The wife with held, the treasure ill detain'd,  
 (Cause of the war, and grievance of the land),  
 With honourable justice to restore;      160  
 And add half Ilion's yet remaining store,  
 Which Troy shall, sworn, produce; that injur'd Greece  
 May share our wealth, and leave our walls in peace.  
 But why this thought? Unarm'd if I should go,  
 What hope of mercy from this vengeful foe,      165 }  
 But woman-like to fall, and fall without a blow?  
 We greet not here, as man conversing man,  
 Met at an oak, or journeying o'er a plain;  
 No season now for calm familiar talk,  
 Like youths and maidens in an ev'ning-walk:      170  
 War is our bus'ness; but to whom is giv'n  
 To die, or triumph, that determine heav'n!

Thus pond'ring, like a God the Greek drew nigh ;  
 His dreadful plumage nodded from on high ;  
 The Pelian jav'lin, in his better hand, 175  
 Shot trembling rays that glitter'd o'er the land ;  
 And on his breast the beamy splendours shone  
 Like Jove's own lightning, or the rising sun.  
 As Hector sees, unusual terrors rise ;  
 Struck by some God, he fears, recedes, and flies. 180  
 He leaves the gates, he leaves the walls behind ;  
 Achilles follows like the winged wind.  
 Thus at the panting dove a falcon flies,  
 (The swiftest racer of the liquid skies),  
 Just when he holds, or thinks he holds his prey, 185  
 Obliquely wheeling through th' aereal way ;  
 With open beak and shrilling cries he springs,  
 And aims his claws, and shoots upon his wings :  
 No less fore-right the rapid chace they held,  
 One urg'd by fury, one by fear impell'd ; 190  
 Now circling round the walls their course maintain,  
 Where the high watch tow'r overlooks the plain ;  
 Now where the fig trees spread their umbrage broad,  
 (A wider compass), smoke along the road.  
 Next by Scamander's double source they bound, 195  
 Where two fam'd fountains burst the parted ground ;  
 This hot through scorching clefts is seen to rise,  
 With exhalations steaming to the skies ;  
 That the green banks in summer's heat o'erflows,  
 Like crystal clear, and cold as winter snows. 200  
 Each gushing fount a marble cistern fills,  
 Whose polish'd bed receives the falling rills ;  
 Where Trojan dames (ere yet alarm'd by Greece)  
 Wash'd their fair garments in the days of peace.  
 By these they pass'd, one chasing, one in flight, 205  
 (The mighty fled, pursu'd by stronger might) ;  
 Swift was the course ; no vulgar prize they play,  
 No vulgar victim must reward the day,

Book XXII. HOMER'S ILIAD. 217

(Such as in races crown the speedy strife),  
The prize contended was great Hector's life. 210

As when some hero's fun'rals are decreed  
In grateful honour of the mighty dead ;  
Where high rewards the vig'rous youth inflame,  
(Some golden tripod, or some lovely dame),  
The panting coursers swiftly turn the goal, 215  
And with them turns the rais'd spectator's soul.  
Thus three times round the Trojan wall they fly,  
The gazing Gods lean forward from the sky ;  
To whom, while eager on the chace they look,  
The fire of mortals and immortals spoke. 220

Unworthy fight ! the man belov'd of heav'n,  
Behold, inglorious round yon city driv'n !  
My heart partakes the gen'rous Hector's pain ;  
Hector, whose zeal whole hecatombs has slain ;  
Whose grateful fumes the Gods receiv'd with joy, 225  
From Ida's summits, and the tow'rs of Troy :  
Now see him flying ! to his fears resign'd,  
And fate, and fierce Achilles, close behind.  
Consult, ye pow'rs ! ('tis worthy your debate),  
Whether to snatch him from impending fate, 230  
Or let him bear, by stern Pelides slain,  
(Good as he is), the lot impos'd on man ?

Then Pallas thus : Shall he whose vengeance forms  
The forked bolt, and blackens heav'n with storms,  
Shall he prolong one Trojan's forfeit breath ! 235  
A man, a mortal, pre-ordin'd to death !  
And will no murmurs fill the courts above ?  
No Gods indignant blame their partial Jove ?  
Go then (return'd the fire) without delay,  
Exert thy will : I give the fates their way. 240  
Swift at the mandate pleas'd Tritonia flies,  
And stoops impetuous from the cleaving skies.

As through the forest, o'er the vale and lawn  
The well-breath'd beag'e drives the flying fawn ;

## 218 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XXII

In vain he tries the covert of the brakes, 245

Or deep beneath the trembling thicket shakes :

Sure of the vapour in the tainted dews,

The certain hound his various maze pursues.

Thus step by step, where-e'er the Trojan wheel'd,

There swift Achilles compass'd round the field. 250

Oft as to reach the Dardan gates he bends,

And hopes th' assistance of his pitying friends,

(Whose show'ring arrows, as he cours'd below,

From the high turrets might oppress the foe),

So oft Achilles turns him to the plain : 255

He eyes the city, but he eyes in vain.

As men in slumbers seem with speedy pace

One to pursue, and one to lead the chace ;

Their sinking limbs the fancy'd course forsake,

Nor this can fly, nor that can overtake : 260

No less the lab'ring heroes pant and strain ;

While that but flies, and this pursues in vain.

What God, O Muse ! assisted Hector's force,  
With fate itself so long to hold the course ?

Phœbus it was ; who, in his latest hour, 265

Endu'd his knees with strength, his nerves with pow'r,

And great Achilles, lest some Greeks advance

Should snatch the glory from his lifted lance,

Sign'd to the troops, to yield his foe the way,

And leave untouched the honours of the day. 270

Jove lifts the golden balances, that show

The fates of mortal men, and things below :

Here each contending hero's lot he tries,

And weighs, with equal hand, their destinies.

Low sinks the scale surcharg'd with Hector's fate ; 275

Heavy with death it sinks, and hell receives the weight.

Then Phœbus left him. Fierce Minerva flies

To stern Pelides, and, triumphing, cries :

Oh lov'd of Jove ! this day your labours cease,

And conquest blazes with full beams on Greece. 280

Book XXII. HOMER's ILIAD. 219

Great Hector falls : that Hector fam'd so far,  
Drunk with renown, insatiable of war,  
Falls by thy hand and mine ! nor force nor flight  
Shall more avail him, nor his God of light.

See, where in vain he supplicates above, 285  
Roll'd at the feet of unrelenting Jove !  
Rest here : myself will lead the Trojan on,  
And urge to meet the fate he cannot shun.

Her voice divine the chief with joyful mind  
Obey'd ; and rested, on his lance reclin'd. 290  
While like Deiphobus the martial dame,  
(Her face, her gesture, and her arms the same),  
In show an aid, by hapless Hector's side  
Approach'd, and greets him thus with voice bely'd.

Too long, O Hector ! have I borne the sight 295  
Of this distress, and sorrow'd in thy flight:  
It fits us now a noble stand to make,  
And here, as brothers, equal fates partake.

Then he : O prince ! ally'd in blood and fame,  
Dearer than all that own a brother's name : 300  
Of all that Hecuba to Priam bore,  
Long try'd, long lov'd : much lov'd, but honour'd  
more !

Since you, of all our num'rous race, alone  
Defend my life, regardless of your own.

Again the Goddess : Much my father's pray'r, 305  
And much my mother's, press'd me to forbear :  
My friends embrac'd my knees, adjur'd my stay :  
But stronger love impell'd, and I obey.  
Come then, the glorious conflict let us try,  
Let the steel sparkle, and the jav lin fly : 310  
Or let us stretch Achilles on the field,  
Or to his arm our bloody trophies yield.

Fraudful she said : then swiftly march'd before :  
The Dardan hero shuns his foe no more.

## 220 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XXII.

Sternly they met. The silence Hector broke; 315  
His dreadful plumage nodded as he spoke.

Enough, O son of Peleus! Troy has view'd  
Her walls thrice circled, and her chief pursu'd.  
But now some God within me bids me try  
Thine, or my fate: I kill thee, or I die, 320  
Yet on the verge of battle let us stay,  
And for a moment's space suspend the day;  
Let heav'n's high pow'rs be call'd to arbitrate  
The just conditions of this stern debate;  
(Eternal witnesses of all below, 325  
And faithful guardians of the treasur'd vow!)  
To them I swear; if victor in the strife,  
Jove by these hands shall shed thy noble life,  
No vile dishonour shall thy corpse pursue;  
Stript of its arms alone (the conqu'ror's due), 330  
The rest to Greece uninjur'd I'll restore:  
Now plight thy mutual oath, I ask no more.

Talk not of oaths, (the dreadful chief replies,  
While anger flash'd from his disdainful eyes),  
Detested as thou art, and ought to be, 335  
Nor oath nor paft Achilles plights with thee:  
Such pafts as lambs and rabid wolves combine,  
Such leagues as men and furious lions join,  
To such I call the Gods! one constant state  
Of lasting rancour and eternal hate: 340  
No thought but rage, and never ceasing strife,  
Till death extinguish rage, and thought, and life.  
Rouse then thy forces this important hour,  
Collect thy soul, and call forth all thy pow'r.  
No farther subterfuge, no farther chance; 345  
'Tis Pallas, Pallas gives thee to my lance.  
Each Grecian ghost by thee depriv'd of breath,  
Now hovers round, and calls thee to thy death.  
He spoke, and launch'd his jav'lin at the foe;  
But Hector shunn'd the meditated blow: 350

He stoop'd, while o'er his head the flying spear  
Sung innocent, and spent its force in air.

Minerva watch'd it falling on the land,  
Then drew, and gave to great Achilles' hand,  
Unseen of Hector, who, elate with joy,

Now shakes his lance, and braves the dread of Troy. 355

The life you boasted to that jav'lin giv'n,  
Prince ! you have m'st'd. My fate depends on heav'n;  
To thee (presumptuous as thou art) unknown,  
Or what must prove my fortune, or thy own. 360

Boasting is but an art, our fears to blind,  
And with false terrors sink another's mind.  
But know, whatever fate I am to try,  
By no dishonest wound shall Hector die ;  
I shall not fall a fugitive at least, 365  
My soul shall bravely issue from my breast :  
But first try thou my arm ; and may this dart  
End all my country's woes, deep bury'd in thy heart !

The weapon flew, its course unerring held,  
Unerring, but the heav'nly shield repell'd 370  
The mortal dart; resulting with a bound  
From off the ringing orb, it struck the ground.

Hector beheld his jav'lin fall in vain,  
Nor other lance, nor other hope remain ;  
He calls Deiphobus, demands a spear, 375  
In vain, for no Deiphobus was there.

All comfortless he stands ; then, with a sigh :  
'Tis so—heav'n wills it, and my hour is nigh !  
I deem'd Deiphobus had heard my call ;  
But he secure lies guarded in the wall. 380

A God deceiv'd me ; Pallas, 'twas thy deed ;  
Death and black fate approach ! 'tis I must bleed.  
No refuge now, no succour from above ;  
Great Jove deserts me, and the son of Jove,  
Propitious once, and kind ! Then welcome fate ! 385  
'Tis true I perish, yet I perish great :

Yet in a mighty deed I shall expire ;  
Let future ages hear it, and admire !

Fierce, at the word, his weighty sword he drew,  
And, all collected, on Achilles flew. 390

So Jove's bold bird, high balanc'd in the air,  
Stoops from the clouds to truss the quiv'ring hare.

Nor less Achilles his fierce soul prepares ;  
Before his breast the flaming shield he bears,

Refulgent orb ! above his fourfold cone 395

The gilded horse hair sparkled in the sun,

Nodding at ev'ry step, (Vulcanian frame !)

And as he mov'd, his figure seem'd on flame.

As radiant Hesper shines with keener light,

Far beaming o'er the silver host of night, 400

When all the starry train emblaze the sphere ;

So shone the point of great Achilles' spear.

In his right hand he waves the weapon round,

Eyes the whole man, and meditates the wound :

But the rich mail Patroclus lately wore, 405

Securely cas'd the warrior's body o'er.

One place at length he spies to let in fate,

Where 'twixt the neck and throat the jointed plate

Gave entrance : through that penetrable part

Furious he drove the well-directed dart : 410

Nor pierc'd the windpipe yet, nor took the pow'r

Of speech, unhappy ! from thy dying hour.

Prone on the field, the bleeding warrior lies,

While thus, triumphing, stern Achilles cries.

At last is Hector stretch'd upon the plain,

Who fear'd no vengeance for Patroclus slain :

Then, prince ! you should have fear'd what now you  
feel ;

Achilles absent was Achilles still.

Yet a short space the great avenger staid,

Then low in dust thy strength and glory laid. 420

Peaceful he sleeps, with all our rites adorn'd,  
For ever honour'd, and for ever mourn'd:  
While cast to all the rage of hostile pow'r,  
Thee birds shall mangle, and thee dogs devour.

Then Hector, fainting at th' approach of death: 425  
By thy own soul: by those who gave thee breath!  
By all the sacred prevalence of pray'r!  
Ah! leave me not for Grecian dogs to tear!  
The common rites of sepulture bestow,  
To sooth a father's and a mother's wo; 430  
Let their large gifts procure an urn at least,  
And Hector's ashes in his country rest.

No, wretch accus'd; relentless he replies,  
(Flames, as he spoke, shot flashing from his eyes);  
Not those who gave me breath, should bid me spare, 435  
Nor all the sacred prevalence of pray'r.  
Could I myself the bloody banquet join?  
No—to the dogs that carcase I resign.  
Should Troy, to bribe me, bring forth all her store,  
And giving thousands, offer thousands more; 440  
Should Dardan Priam, and his weeping dame,  
Drain their whole realm to buy one fun'ral flame;  
Their Hector on the pile they should not see,  
Nor rob the vultures of one limb of thee.

Then thus the chief his dying accents drew: 445  
Thy rage, implacable! too well I knew:  
The furies that relentless breast have steel'd,  
And curs'd thee with a heart that cannot yield.  
Yet think, a day will come, when fate's decree  
And angry Gods shall wreak this wrong on thee; 450  
Phœbus and Paris shall avenge my fate,  
And stretch thee here, before this Scæan gate.  
He ceas'd. The fates suppress'd his lab'ring breath,  
And his eyes stiffen'd at the hand of death;  
To the dark realm the spirit wings its way, 455  
(The manly body left a load of clay);

And plaintive glides along the dreary coast,  
A naked, wand'ring, melancholy ghost !

Achilles, musing as he roll'd his eyes  
O'er the dead hero, thus (unheard) replies. 460  
Die thou the first ! When Jove and heav'n ordain,  
I follow thee — He said, and stripp'd the slain.  
Then forcing backward from the gaping wound  
The reeking jav'lin, cast it on the ground.

The thronging Greeks behold with wond'ring eyes 465  
His manly beauty and superior size :  
While some ignobler, the great dead deface  
With wounds ungen'rous, or with taunts disgrace :  
" How chang'd that Hector ! who like Jove of late  
" Sent lightning on our fleets, and scatter'd fate ! " 470

High o'er the slain the great Achilles stands,  
Begirt with heroes, and surrounding bands ;  
And thus aloud, while all the host attends :  
Princes and leaders ! countrymen and friends !  
Since now at length the pow'rful will of heav'n 475  
The dire destroyer to our arm has giv'n,  
Is not Troy fall'n already ? Haste, ye pow'rs !  
See, if already their deserted tow'rs  
Are left unmann'd ; or if they yet retain  
The souls of heroes, their great Hector slain ? 480  
But what is Troy, or glory what to me ?  
Or why reflects my mind on ought but thee,  
Divine Patroclus ! Death has seal'd his eyes ;  
Unwept, unhonour'd, uninterr'd he lies !  
Can his dear image from my soul depart, 485  
Long as the vital spirit moves my heart ?  
If, in the melancholy shades below,  
The flames of friends and lovers cease to glow,  
Yet mine shall sacred last ; mine undecay'd,  
Burn on thro' death, and animate my shade. 490  
Meanwhile, ye sons of Greece, in triumph bring  
The corpse of Hector, and your Pæans sing :

Be this the song, flow-moving tow'rd the shore,  
“Hector is dead, and Ilion is no more.”

Then his fell soul a thought of vengeance bred, 495  
(Unworthy of himself, and of the dead);  
The nervous ankles bor'd, his feet he bound  
With thongs inserted thro' the double wound;  
These fix'd up high behind the rolling wain,  
His graceful head was trail'd along the plain. 500  
Proud on his car th' insulting victor stood,  
And bore aloft his arms, distilling blood.  
He smites the steeds; the rapid chariot flies;  
The sudden clouds of circling dust arise.  
Now lost is all that formidable air; 505  
The face divine, and long descending hair,  
Purple the ground, and streak the sable sand;  
Deform'd, dishonour'd, in his native land!  
Giv'n to the rage of an insulting throng!  
And, in his parents sight, now dragg'd along! 510

The mother first beheld with sad survey;  
She rent her tresses, venerably grey, }  
And cast, far off, the regal veils away.  
With piercing shrieks his bitter fate she moans,  
While the sad father answers groans with groans, 515  
Tears after tears his mournful cheeks o'erflow,  
And the whole city wears one face of wo:  
No less than if the rage of hostile fires,  
From her foundations curling to her spires,  
O'er the proud citadel at length should rise, 520  
And the last blaze send Ilion to the skies.  
The wretched monarch of the falling state,  
Distracted, presses to the Dardan gate.  
Scarce the whole people stop his desp'rare course,  
While strong affliction gives the feeble force: 525  
Grief tears his heart, and drives him to and fro,  
In all the raging impotence of wo.

At length he roll'd in dust, and thus begun,  
Imploring all, and naming one by one.

Ah ! let me, let me go where sorrow calls ; 530

I, only I, will issue from your walls,  
(Guide or companion, friends ! I ask ye none),  
And bow before the murd'rer of my son.

My grief perhaps his pity may engage ;  
Perhaps at least he may respect my age. 535

He has a father too ; a man like me ;

One, not exempt from age and misery,

(Vig'rous no more, as when his young embrace  
Begot this pest of me, and all my race).

How many valiant sons, in early bloom, 540

Has that curs'd hand sent headlong to the tomb ?  
Thee, Hector ! last : thy loss (divinely brave)

Sinks my sad soul with sorrow to the grave.

Oh had thy gentle spirit pass'd in peace,

The son expiring in the fire's embrace, 545

While both thy parents wept the fatal hour,

And, bending o'er thee, mix'd the tender show'r !

Some comfort that had been, some sad relief,

To melt in full satiety of grief !

Thus wail'd the father, grov'ling on the ground, 550  
And all the eyes of Ilion stream'd around.

Amidst her matrons Hecuba appears,

(A mourning princess, and a train in tears) :

Ah ! why has heav'n prolong'd this hated breath,  
Patient of horrors, to behold thy death ? 555

Oh Hector ! late thy parents pride and joy,

The boast of nations ! the defence of Troy !

To whom her safety and her fame she ow'd ;

Her chief; her hero, and almost her God !

O fatal change ! become in one sad day 560

A senseless corse ! inanimated clay !

But not as yet the fatal news had spread

To fair Andromache, of Hector dead ;

As yet no messenger had told his fate,  
Nor ev'n his stay without the Scæn gate. 565  
Far in the close recesses of the dome,  
Pensive she ply'd the melancholy loom ;  
A growing work employ'd her secret hours,  
Confus'dly gay with intermingled flow'rs.  
Her fair-hair'd handmaids heat the brazen urn, 570  
The bath preparing for her lord's return :  
In vain : alas ! her lord returns no more !  
Unbath'd he lies, and bleeds along the shore !  
Now from the walls the clamours reach her ear,  
And all her members shake with sudden fear ; 575  
Forth from her iv'ry hand the shuttle falls,  
As thus, astonish'd, to her maids she calls.

Ah follow me ! (she cry'd) ; what plaintive noise  
Invades my ear ? 'Tis sure my mother's voice.  
My falt'ring knees their trembling frame desert, 580  
A pulse unusual flutters at my heart ;  
Some strange disaster, some reverie of fate  
(Ye Gods avert it) threatens the Trojan state.  
Far be the omen which my thoughts suggest !  
But much I fear my dauntless Hector's breast 585  
Confronts Achilles ; chas'd along the plain,  
Shut from our walls ! I fear, I fear him slain !  
Safe in the croud he ever scorn'd to wait,  
And sought for glory in the jaws of fate :  
Perhaps that noble heat has cost his breath, 590  
Now quench'd for ever in the arms of death.

She spoke ; and furious, with distracted pace,  
Fears in her heart, and anguish in her face,  
flies thro' the dome, (the maids her steps pursue),  
And mounts the walls, and sends around her view. 595  
Too soon her eyes the killing object found,  
The godlike Hector dragg'd along the ground.  
A sudden darkness shades her swimming eyes :  
She faints, she falls ; her breath, her colour flies.

Her hair's fair ornaments, the braids that bound, 600  
 The net that held them, and the wreath that crown'd,  
 The veil and diadem, flew far away ;  
 (The gift of Venus on her bridal day).  
 Around a train of weeping sisters stands  
 To raise her sinking with assistant hands. 605  
 Scarce from the verge of death recall'd, again  
 She faints, or but recovers to complain.

O wretched husband of a wretched wife !  
 Born with one fate, to one unhappy life !  
 For sure one star its baneful beam display'd 610  
 On Priam's roof, and Hippoplacia's shade.  
 From diff'rent parents, diff'rent climes we came,  
 At diff'rent periods, yet our fate the same !  
 Why was my birth to great Aetion ow'd ?  
 And why was all that tender care bestow'd ? 615  
 Would I had never been ! — O thou, the ghost  
 Of my dead husband ! miserably lost !  
 Thou to the dismal realms for ever gone !  
 And I abandon'd, desolate, alone !  
 An only child, once comfort of my pains, 620  
 Sad product now of hapless love, remains !  
 No more to smile upon his sire ! no friend  
 To help him now ! no father to defend !  
 For should he 'scape the sword, the common doom !  
 What wrongs attend him, and what griefs to come ?  
 Ev'n from his own paternal roof expell'd, 626  
 Some stranger ploughs his patrimonial field.  
 The day, that to the shades the father sends,  
 Robs the sad orphan of his father's friends :  
 He, wretched outcast of mankind ! appears 630  
 For ever sad, for ever bath'd in tears :  
 Amongst the happy, unregarded he,  
 Hangs on the robe, or trembles at the knee,  
 While those his father's former bounty fed,  
 Nor reach the goblet, nor divide the bread : 635

The kindest but his present wants allay,  
 To leave him wretched the succeeding day.  
 Frugal compassion ! Heedless they who boast  
 Both parents still, nor feel what he has lost,  
 Shall cry, " Begone ! thy father feasts not here," 640  
 The wretch obeys, retiring with a tear.  
 Thus wretched, thus retiring all in tears,  
 To my sad soul Astyanax appears !  
 Forc'd by repeated insults to return,  
 And to his widow'd mother vainly mourn. 645  
 He, who with tender delicacy bred,  
 With princes sported, and on dainties fed,  
 And when still ev'ning gave him up to rest,  
 Sunk soft in down upon the nurse's breast,  
 Must—ah what must he not ? Whom Ilion calls 650  
 Astyanax, from her well-guarded walls,  
 Is now that name no more, unhappy boy !  
 Since now no more the father guards his Troy.  
 But thou, my Hector, ly'st expos'd in air,  
 Far from thy parents and thy consort's care, 655  
 Whose hand in vain, directed by her love,  
 The martial scarf and robe of triumph wove.  
 Now to devouring flames be these a prey,  
 Useless to thee, from this accursed day !  
 Yet let the sacrifice at least be paid, 660  
 An honour to the living, not the dead !  
 So spake the mournful dame : her matrons hear,  
 Sigh back her sighs, and answer tear with tear.





T H E  
I L I A D.

B O O K   XXIII.

T H E   A R G U M E N T.

*Achilles and the Myrmidons do honours to the body of Patroclus. After the funeral feast, he retires to the sea shore, where, falling asleep, the ghost of his friend appears to him, and demands the rites of burial. The next morning the soldiers are sent with mules and waggons to fetch wood for the pyre. The funeral procession, and the offering their hair to the dead. Achilles sacrifices several animals, and lastly, twelve Trojan captives at the pile, then sets fire to it. He pays libations to the winds, which (at the instance of Iris) rise, and raise the flames. When the pile has burned all night, they gather the bones, place them in an urn of gold, and raise the tomb. Achilles institutes the funeral games; the chariot-race, the fight of the cæstus, the wrestling, the foot race, the single combat, the discus, the shooting with arrows, the darting the javelin: the various descriptions of which, and the various success of the several antagonists, make the greatest part of the book.*

In this book ends the thirtieth day. The night following the ghost of Patroclus appears to Achilles : the one and thirtieth day is employed in felling the timber for the pile ; the two and thirtieth in burning it ; and the three and thirtieth in the games. The scene is generally on the sea-shore.

**T**HUS humbled in the dust, the pensive train  
 Thro' the sad city mourn'd her hero slain.  
 The body soil'd with dust, and black with gore,  
 Lies on broad Hellespont's resounding shore :  
 The Grecians seek their ships, and clear the strand, 5  
 All, but the martial Myrmidonian band :  
 These yet assembled great Achilles holds,  
 And the stern purpose of his mind unfolds.

Not yet (my brave companions of the war)  
 Release your smoaking coursers from the car ; 10  
 But, with his chariot each in order led,  
 Perform due honours to Patroclus dead.  
 Ere yet from rest or food we seek relief,  
 Some rites remain, to glut our rage of grief.

The troops obey'd ; and thrice in order led 15  
 (Achilles first) their coursers round the dead ;  
 And thrice their sorrows and laments renew ;  
 Tears bathe their arms, and tears the sands bedew.  
 For such a warrior Thetis aids their wo,  
 Melts their strong hearts, and bid their eyes to flow.  
 But chief, Pelides : thick-succeeding sighs 20  
 Burst from his heart, and torrents from his eyes :  
 His slaught'ring hands, yet red with blood, he laid  
 On his dead friend's cold breast, and thus he said.

All hail, Patroclus ! let thy honour'd ghost 25  
 Hear, and rejoice on Pluto's dreary coast ;  
 Behold ! Achilles' promise is complete ;  
 The bloody Hector stretch'd before thy feet.

## 232 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XXIII.

Lo! to the dogs his carcase I resign ;  
And twelve sad victims, of the Trojan line, 30  
Sacred to vengeance, instant, shall expire,  
There lives effus'd around thy fun'ral pyre.

Gloomy he said, and (horrible to view)  
Before the bier the bleeding Hector threw  
Prone on the dust. The Myrmidons around 35  
Unbrac'd their armour, and the steeds unbound.  
All to Achilles' fable ship repair,

Frequent and full, the genial feast to share.  
Now from the well-fed swine black smokes aspire, 40  
The bristly victims hissing o'er the fire:

The huge ox bellowing fa'l's; with feebler cries  
Expires the goat; the sheep in silence dies.

Around the hero's prostrate body flow'd,  
In one promiscuous stream, the reeking blood.  
And now a band of Argive monarchs brings 45  
The glorious visitor to the king of kings.

From his dead friend the pensive warrior went,  
With steps unwilling, to the regal tent.  
Th' attending heralds, as by office bound,  
With kindled flames the tripod vase surround;

To cleanse his conqu'ring hands from hostile gore, 50  
They urg'd in vain; the chief refus'd, and swore.  
No drop shall touch me, by almighty Jove!

The first and greatest of the Gods above!  
Till on the pyre I place thee; till I rear 55  
The grassy mound, and clip thy sacred hair.  
Some ease at least those pious rites may give,

And sooth my sorrows, while I bear to live.  
Howe'er, reluctant as I am, I stay,  
And share your feast; but, with the dawn of day, 60

(O king of men!), it claims thy royal care,  
That Greece the warrior's fun'ral pile prepare,  
And bid the forests fall. (such rites are paid

To heroes slumb'ring in eternal shade).

Book XXXIII. HOMER's ILIAD. 233

Then, when his earthly part shall mount in fire, 65  
Let the leagu'd squadrons to their posts retire.

He spoke ; they hear him, and the word obey ;  
The rage of hunger and of thirst allay ; }  
Then ease in sleep the labours of the day. }  
But great Pelides, stretch'd along the shore, 70  
Where dash'd on rocks the broken billows roar,  
Lies inly groaning ; while on either hand  
The martial Myrmidons confus'dly stand.  
Along the grass his languid members fall,  
Tir'd with his chace around the Trojan wall ; 75  
Hush'd by the murmurs of the rolling deep,  
At length he sinks in the soft arms of sleep.  
When lo ! the shade, before his closing eyes,  
Of sad Patroclus rose, or seem'd to rise ;  
In the same robe he living wore, he came : 80  
In stature, voice, and pleasing look, the same.  
The form familiar hover'd o'er his head :  
And sleeps Achilles, (thus the phantom said),  
Sleeps my Achilles, his Patroclus dead ? }  
Living, I seem'd his dearest, tend rest care, 85  
But now forgot, I wander in the air.  
Let my pale corse the rites of burial know,  
And give me entrance in the realms below :  
Till then, the spirit finds no resting place,  
But here and there th' unbody'd spectres chase } 90  
The vagrant dead around the dark abode,  
Forbid to cross th' irremeable flood.  
Now give thy hand ; for to the farther shore  
When once we pass, the soul returns no more :  
When once the last funereal flames ascend, 95  
No more shall meet Achilles and his friend ;  
No more our thoughts to those we lov'd make known ;  
Or quit the dearest, to converse alone.  
Me fate has sever'd from the sons of earth,  
The fate foredoom'd that waited from my birth : 100

Thee too it waits before the Trojan wall  
Ev'n great and godlike thou art doom'd to fall.

Hear then; and as in fate and love we join,  
Ah suffer that my bones may rest with thine!

Together have we liv'd, together bred,

105

One house receiv'd us, and one table fed:

That golden urn thy Goddess mother gave,

May mix our ashes in one common grave.

And is it thou? (he answers), to my sight

Once more return'st thou from the realms of night? 110

Oh more than brother! Think each office paid,

Whate'er can rest a discontented shade;

But grant one last embrace, unhappy boy!

Afford at least that melancholy joy.

He said, and with his longing arms essay'd

115

In vain to grasp the visionary shade;

Like a thin smoke he sees the spirit fly,

And hears a feeble lamentable cry.

Confus'd he wakes; amazement breaks the bands

120

Of golden sleep, and starting from the sands,

Pensive he muses with uplifted hands.

'Tis true, 'tis certain; man, though dead, retains  
Part of himself; th' immortal mind remains:

The form subsists without the body's aid,

Aereal semblance, and an empty shade!

125

This night my friend, so late in battle lost,

Stood at my side, a pensive, plaintive ghost;

Ev'n now familiar, as in life, he came,

Alas! how diff'rent! yet how like the same!

Thus while he spoke, each eye grew big with tears:

And now the rosy finger'd morn appears,

131

Shews ev'ry mournful face with tears o'erspread,

And glares on the pale visage of the dead.

But Agamemnon, as the rites demand,

With mules and waggons sends a chosen band

135

To load the timber, and the pile to rear ;  
A charge consign'd to Merion's faithful care.  
With proper instruments they take the road,  
Axes to cut, and ropes to sling the load.

First march the heavy mules, securely slow, 140  
O'er hills, o'er dales, o'er crags, o'er rocks they go :  
Jumping high o'er the shrubs of the rough ground,  
Rattle the clatt'ring cars, and the shock'd axles bound.

But when arriv'd at Ida's spreading woods,  
(Fair Ida, water'd with descending floods), 145  
Loud sounds the axe, redoubling strokes on strokes ;  
On all sides round the forest hurls her oaks  
Headlong. Deep echoing groan the thickets brown ;  
Then rustling, crackling, crashing, thunder down.  
The wood the Grecians cleave, prepar'd to burn ; 150  
And the slow mules the same rough road return.

The sturdy woodmen equal burdens bore  
(Such charge was giv'n them) to the sandy shore ;  
There on the spot which great Achilles show'd,  
They eas'd their shoulders, and dispos'd the load ; 155  
Circling around the place, where times to come  
Shall view Patroclus' and Achilles' tomb.

The hero bids his marshal troops appear  
High on their cars in all the pomp of war ;  
Each in resplendent arms his limbs attires, 160  
All mount their chariots, combatants and squires.  
The chariots first proceed, a shining train ;  
Then clouds of foot that smoke along the plain ;  
Next these the melancholy band appear,

Amidst, lay dead Patroclus on the bier : 165  
O'er all the corse their scatter'd locks they throw ;  
Achilles next, oppress'd with mighty wo,  
Supporting with his hands the hero's head,  
Bends o'er th' extended body of the dead.

Patroclus decent on th' appointed ground 170  
They place, and heap the sylvan pile around.

## 236 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XXIII.

But great Achilles stands apart in pray'r,  
 And from his head divides the yellow hair ;  
 Those curling locks which from his youth he vow'd,  
 And sacred grew, to Sperchius' honour'd flood : 175  
 Then sighing, to the deep his looks he cast,  
 And roll'd his eyes around the wat'ry waste.

Sperchius ! whose waves in mazy errors lost  
 Delightful roll along my native coast !  
 To whom we vainly vow'd, at our return, 180  
 These locks to fall, and hecatombs to burn ;  
 Full fifty rams to bleed in sacrifice,  
 Where to the day thy silver fountains rise,  
 And where in shade of consecrated bow'r's  
 Thy altars stand, perfum'd with native flow'r's ! 185  
 So vow'd my father, but he vow'd in vain ;  
 No more Achilles sees his native plain ;  
 In that vain hope those hairs no longer grow,  
 Patroclus bears them to the shades below.

Thus o'er Patroclus while the hero pray'd,  
 On his cold hand the sacred lock he laid. 190  
 Once more afresh the Grecian sorrows flow :  
 And now the sun had set upon their wo ;  
 But to the king of men thus spoke the chief.  
 Enough, Atrides ! give the troops relief !  
 Permit the mourning legions to retire, 195  
 And let the chiefs alone attend the pyre ;  
 The pious care be ours, the dead to burn —  
 He said : the people to their ships return :  
 While those deputed to inter the slain,  
 Heap with a rising pyramid the plain. 200  
 A hundred foot in length, a hundred wide,  
 The growing structure spreads on ev'ry side ;  
 High on the top the manly corse they lay,  
 And well-fed sheep and sable oxen slay :  
 Achilles cover'd with their fat the dead, 205  
 And the pil'd victims round the body spread ;

Book XXIII. HOMER'S ILIAD 237

Then jars of honey and of fragrant oil  
Suspends around, low bending o'er the pile.  
Four sprightly coursers, with a deadly groan 210  
Pour forth their lives, and on the pyre are thrown,  
Of nine large dogs, domestic at his board,  
Fall two, selected to attend their lord.

Then last of all, and horrible to tell,  
Sad sacrifice ! twelve Trojan captives fell. 215  
On these the rage of fire victorious preys,  
Involves and joins them in one common blaze.  
Smear'd with the bloody rites, he stands on high,  
And calls the spirit with a dreadful cry.

All hail, Patroclus ! let thy vengeful ghost 220  
Hear, and exult on Pluto's dreary coast.  
Behold, Achilles' promise fully paid,  
Twelve Trojan heroes offer'd to thy shade;  
But heavier fates on Hector's corse attend,  
Sav'd from the flames for hungry dogs to rend. 225

So spake he, threat'ning ; but the Gods made vain  
His threat, and guard inviolate the slain :  
Celestial Venus hover'd o'er his head,  
And roseat unguents (heav'nly fragrance !) shed :  
She watch'd him all the night, and all the day, 230  
And drove the bloodhounds from their destin'd prey.  
Nor sacred Phœbus less employ'd his care ;  
He pour'd around a veil of gather'd air,  
And kept the nerves undry'd, the flesh entire,  
Against the solar beam and Sirian fire. 235

Nor yet the pile where dead Patroclus lies,  
Smokes, nor as yet the fullen flames arise ;  
But, fast beside, Achilles stood in pray'r,  
Invok'd the Gods whose spirit move the air,  
And victims promis'd, and libations cast, 240  
To gentle Zephyr and the Boreal blast :  
He call'd th' aereal pow'rs along the skies  
To breathe, and whisper to the fires to rise.

## 238 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XXIII.

The winged Iris heard the hero's call,  
And instant hasten'd to their airy hall, 245  
Where, in old Zephyr's open courts on high,  
Sat all the blust'ring brethren of the sky.  
She shone amidst them on her painted bow ;  
The rocky pavement glitter'd with the show.  
All from the banquet rise, and each invites 250  
The various Goddess to partake the rites.  
Not so, (the dame reply'd), I haste to go  
To sacred Ocean, and the floods below :  
Ev'n now our solemn hecatombs attend,  
And heav'n is feasting on the world's green end, 255  
With righteous Æthiops (uncorrupted train !)  
Far on th'extremest limits of the main.  
But Peleus' son intreats, with sacrifice,  
The Western Spirit, and the North to rise ;  
Let on Patroclus' pile your blast be driv'n, 260  
And bear the blazing honours high to heav'n.  
Swift as the word she vanish'd from their view ;  
Swift as the word the winds tumultuous flew ;  
Forth burst the stormy band with thund'ring roar,  
And heaps on heaps the clouds are toss'd before. 265  
To the wide main then stooping from the skies,  
The heaving deeps in wat'ry mountains rise :  
Troy feels the blast along her shaking walls,  
Till on the pile the gather'd tempest falls.  
The structure crackles in the roaring fires, 270  
And all the night the plenteous flame aspires.  
All night Achilles hails Patroclus' soul,  
With large libation from the golden bowl.  
As a poor father, helpless and undone,  
Mourns o'er the ashes of an only son, 275  
Takes a sad pleasure the last bones to burn,  
And pour in tears, ere yet they close the urn :  
So staid Achilles, circling round the shore,  
So watch'd the flames, till now they flame no more.

Book XXIII. H O M E R's I L I A D. 239

'Twas when, emerging thro' the shades of night, 280  
The morning planet told th' approach of light;  
And fast behind, Aurora's warmer ray  
O'er the broad ocean pour'd the golden day:  
Then sunk the blaze, the pile no longer burn'd,  
And to their caves the whistling winds return'd; 285  
Across the Thracian seas their course they bore;  
The ruffled seas beneath their passage roar.

Then parting from the pile, he ceas'd to weep,  
And sunk to quiet in th' embrace of sleep,  
Exhausted with his grief: meanwhile the croud 290  
Of thronging Grecians round Achilles stood:  
The tumult wak'd him: from his eyes he shook  
Unwilling slumber, and the chiefs bespoke.

Ye kings and princes of th'Achaian name!  
First let us quench the yet remaining flame 295  
With sable wine; then (as the rites direct)  
The hero's bones with careful view select;  
(Apart, and easy to be known they lie,  
Amidst the heap, and obvious to the eye:  
The rest around the margins will be seen, 300  
Promiscuous, steeds, and immolated men);  
These wrapt in double cawls of fat, prepare;  
And in the golden vase dispose with care;  
There let them rest, with decent honour laid,  
Till I shall follow to th' infernal shade. 305  
Meantime erect the tomb with pious hands,  
A common structure on the humble sands;  
Hereafter Greece some nobler work may raise,  
And late posterity record our praise.

The Greeks obey; while yet the embers glow,  
Wide o'er the pile the sable wine they throw, 310  
And deep subsides the ashy heap below.  
Next the white bones his sad companions place,  
With tears collected, in the golden vase.

## 240 HOMER's ILIAD. Book XXIII.

The sacred relics to the tent they bore; 315  
 The urn a veil of linen cover'd o'er.  
 That done, they bid the sepulchre aspire,  
 And cast the deep foundations round the pyre;  
 High in the midst they heap the swelling bed  
 Of rising earth, memorial of the dead. 320

The swarming populace the chief detains,  
 And leads amidst a wide extent of plains;  
 There plac'd them round: then from the ships proceeds  
 A train of oxen, mules, and stately steeds,  
 Vases and tripods, for the funeral games), 325  
 Resplendent brass, and more resplendent dames.  
 First stood the prizes to reward the force  
 Of rapid racers in the dusty course:  
 A woman for the first, in beauty's bloom,  
 Skill'd in the needle and the lab'ring loom; 330  
 And a large vase, where two bright handles rise,  
 Of twenty measures its capacious size.  
 The second victor claims a mare unbroke,  
 Big with a mule, unknowing of the yoke:  
 The third, a charger yet untouched with flame; 335  
 Four ample measures held the shining frame:  
 Two golden talents for the fourth were plac'd:  
 An ample double bowl contents the last.  
 These in fair order rang'd upon the plain,  
 The hero, rising, thus address'd the train. 340

Behold the prizes, valiant Greeks! decreed  
 To the brave rulers of the racing steed;  
 Prizes which none beside ourself could gain,  
 Should our immortal coursers take the plain:  
 (A race unrivall'd, which from Ocean's God 345  
 Peleus receiv'd, and on his son bestow'd).  
 But this no time our vigour to display;  
 Nor suit, with them, the games of this sad day:  
 Lost is Patroclus now, that wont to deck  
 Their flowing manes, and sleek their glossy neck. 350

Sad, as they shar'd in human grief, they stand,  
And trail those graceful honours on the sand!  
Let others for the task prepare,  
Who trust the courser, and the flying car.

Fir'd at his word the rival racers rise; 355  
But far the first, Eumelus hopes the prize,

Fam'd through Pieria for the fleetest breed,  
And skill'd to manage the high-bounding steed.  
With equal ardour bold Tydides swell'd,

The steeds of Tros beneath his yoke compell'd, 365  
(Which late obey'd the Dardan chif's command,  
When scarce a God redeem'd him from his hand).

Then Menelaus his Podargus brings,  
And the fam'd courser of the king of kings;  
Whom rich Echepolus, (more rich than brave), 365  
To 'scape the wars to Agimemnon gave,  
(Æthe her name), at home to end his days;  
Base wealth preferring to eternal praise.

Next him Antilochus demands the course,  
With beating heart, and cheers his Pylian horse. 370  
Experienc'd Nestor gives his son the reins,  
Directs his judgment, and his heat restrains;  
Nor idly warns the hoary sire, nor hears  
The prudent son with unattending ears.

My son! tho' youthful ardour fire thy breast, 375  
The Gods have lov'd thee, and with arts have blest,  
Neptune and Jove on thee conferr'd the skill,  
Swift round the goal to turn the flying wheel.  
To guide thy conduct little precept needs;  
But slow, and past their vigour, are my steeds. 380  
Fear not thy rivals, tho' for swiftness known;  
Compare those rivals judgment, and thy own:  
It is not strength, but art, obtains the prize,  
And to be swift is less than to be wise.  
'Tis more by art, than force of num'rous strokes, 385  
The dext'rous woodman shapes the stubborn oaks;

By art the pilot, thro' the boiling deep  
 And howling tempest, steers the fearless ship ;  
 And 'tis the artist wins the glorious course,  
 Not those who trust in chariots, and in horse. 390

In vain ; unskilful, to the goal they strive,  
 And short, or wide, th' ungovern'd courser drive :  
 While with sure skill, tho' with inferior steeds,  
 The knowing racer to his end proceeds ;  
 Fix'd on the goal, his eye foreruns the course, 395

His hand unerring steers the steady horse,  
 And now contracts, or now extends the rein,  
 Observing still the foremost on the plain.  
 Mark then the goal, 'tis easy to be found ;  
 Yon aged trunk, a cubit from the ground ; 400

Of some once stately oak the last remains,  
 Or hardy fir, unperish'd with the rains :  
 Inclos'd with stones, conspicuous from afar ;  
 And round, a circle for the wheeling car.  
 (Some tomb perhaps of old, the dead to grace ; 405

Or then, as now, the limit of a race).  
 Bear close to this, and warily proceed,  
 A little bending to the left-hand steed ;  
 But urge the right, and give him all the reins ;  
 While thy strict hand his fellow's head restrains, 410

And turns him short; till, doubling as they roll,  
 The wheel's round naves appear to brush the goal,  
 Yet (not to break the car, or lame the horse)  
 Clear of the stony heap direct the course ;  
 Lest, through incaution failing, thou mayst be 415

A joy to others, a reproach to me.  
 So shalt thou pass the goal, secure of mind,  
 And leave unskilful swiftness far behind ;  
 Tho' thy fierce rival drove the matchless steed  
 Which bore Adrastus, of celestial breed ; 420

Or the fam'd race, thro' all the regions known,  
 That whirl'd the car of proud Laomedon.

Thus (nought unsaid), the much advising sage  
Concludes; then sat, stiff with unwieldy age.

Next bold Meriones was seen to rise, 425

The last, but not least ardent for the prize.

They mount their seats; the lots their place dispose;  
(Roll'd in his helmet, these Achilles throws.)

Young Nestor leads the race: Eumelus then;

And next the brother of the king of men; 430

Thy lot, Meriones, the fourth was cast;

And far the bravest, Diomed, was last.

They stand in order, an impatient train;

Pelides points the barrier on the plain,

And sends before old Phœnix to the place, 435

To mark the racers, and to judge the race.

At once the coursers from the barrier bound;

The lifted scourges all at once resound;

Their heart, their eyes, their voice, they send before;

And up the champaign thunder from the shore: 440

Thick, where they drive, the dusty clouds arise,

And the lost courier in the whirlwind flies;

Loose on their shoulders the long manes, reclin'd,

Float in their speed, and dance upon the wind:

The smoaking chariots, rapid as they bound, 445

Now seem to touch the sky, and now the ground.

While hot for fame, and conquest all their care,

(Each o'er his flying courser hung in air),

Erect with ardour, poi'd upon the rein,

They pant, they stretch, they shoot along the plain.

Now, (the last compairis fetch'd around the goal), 450

At the near prize each gathers all his soul,

Each burns with double hope, with double pain,

Tears up the shore, and thunders tow'rds the main.

First flew Eumelus on Peretian steeds; 455

With those of Tros, bold Diomed succeeds:

Close on Eumelus' back they puff the wind,

And seem just mounting on his car behind;

## 244 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XXIII.

Full on his neck he feels the sultry breeze,  
And hov'ring o'er, their stretching shadow sees. 460  
 Then had he lost, or left a doubtful prize ;  
But angry Phœbus to Tydides flies,  
Strikes from his hand the scourge, and renders vain  
His matchless horses labour on the plain.  
 Rage fills his eye with anguish, to survey 465  
Snatch'd from his hope the glories of the day.  
 The fraud celestial Pallas sees with pain,  
Springs to her knight, and gives the scourge again,  
And fills his steeds with vigour. At a stroke  
She breaks his rival's chariot from the yoke ; 470  
 No more their way the startled horses held ;  
 The car rever'd came rattling on the field ;  
 Shot headlong from his seat, beside the wheel,  
 Prone on the dust th' unhappy master fell ;  
 His batter'd face and elbows strike the ground ; 475  
 Nose, mouth, and front, one undistinguish'd wound :  
 Grief stops his voice, a torrent drowns his eyes ;  
 Before him far the glad Tydides flies ;  
 Minerva's spirit drives his matchless pace,  
 And crowns him victor of the labour'd race. 480

The next, though distant, Menelaus succeeds ;  
While thus young Nestor animates his steeds.  
 Now, now, my gen'rous pair, exert your force ;  
 Not that we hope to match Tydides' horse,  
 Since great Minerva wings their rapid way, 485  
 And gives their lord the honours of the day.  
 But reach Atrides ! shall his mare outgo  
 Your swiftness ? vanquish'd by a female foe !  
 Through your neglect, if lagging on the plain  
 The last ignoble gift be all we gain ;  
 No more shall Nestor's hand your food supply, 490  
 The old man's fury rises, and ye die.  
 Haste then ; yon narrow road, before our fight,  
 Presents th' occasion, could we use it right.

Thus he. The coursers at their master's threat, 495  
 With quicker steps the sounding champaign beat.  
 And now Antilochus, with nice survey,  
 Observes the compass of the hollow way.

'Twas where by force of wintry torrents torn,  
 East by the road a precipice was worn : 500  
 Here, where but one could pass to shun the throng  
 The Spartan hero's chariot swoak'd along.  
 Close up the vent'rous youth resolves to keep,  
 Still edging near, and bears him tow'r'd the steep.  
 Atrides trembling casts his eyes below, 505  
 And wonders at the rashness of his foe.

Hold, stay your steeds—What madness thus to ride  
 This narrow way ; take larger field (he cry'd)  
 Or both must fall!—Atrides cry'd in vain ;  
 He flies more fast, and throws up all the rein. 510  
 Far as an able arm the disk can send,  
 When youthful rivals their full force extend,  
 So far, Antilochus ! thy chariot flew  
 Before the king : he, cautious, backward drew  
 His horse compell'd ; foreboding in his fears 515  
 The rattling ruin of the clashing cars,  
 The flound'ring coursers rolling on the plain,  
 And conquest lost through frantic haste to gain :  
 But thus upbraids his rival as he flies :  
 Go, furious youth, ungen'rous and unwise ! 520  
 Go, but expect not I'll the prize resign ;  
 Add perjury to fraud, and make it thine—  
 Then to his steeds with all his force he cries :  
 Be swift, be vig'rous, and regain the prize !  
 Your rivals, destitute of youthful force, 525  
 With fainting knees shall labour in the course,  
 And yield the glory yours—The steeds obey ;  
 Already at their heels they wing their way,  
 And seem already to retrieve the day.

## 246 HOMER's ILIAD. Book XXIII.

Meantime the Grecians in a ring beheld      530  
 The coursers bounding o'er the dusty field.  
 The first who mark'd them was the Cretan king ;  
 High on a rising ground, above the ring,  
 The monarch sat ; from whence with sure survey  
 He well observ'd the chief who led the way,      535  
 And heard from far his animating cries,  
 And saw the foremost steed with sharpen'd eyes ;  
 On whose broad front a blaze of shining white,  
 Like the full moon, flood obvious to the sight.  
 He saw ; and rising, to the Greeks begun.      540  
 Are yonder horse discern'd by me alone ?  
 Or can ye, all, another chief survey,  
 And other steeds, than lately led the way ?  
 Those, though the swiftest, by some God with held,  
 Lie sure disabled in the middle field :      545  
 For since the goal they doubled, round the plain  
 I search to find them, but I search in vain.  
 Perchance the reins forsook the driver's hand,  
 And, turn'd too short, he tumbled on the strand,  
 Shot from the chariot ; while his coursers stray      550  
 With frantic fury from the destin'd way.  
 Rise then some other, and inform my sight,  
 (For these dim eyes, perhaps, discern not right) ;  
 Yet sure he seems (to judge by shape and air)  
 The great Ætolian chief, renown'd in war.      555  
 Old man ! (Oileus rashly thus replies),  
 Thy tongue too hastily confers the prize ;  
 Of those who view the course, not sharpest ey'd,  
 Nor youngest, yet the readiest to decide.  
 Eumelus' steeds high bounding in the chace,      560  
 Still, as at first, unrival'd lead the race :  
 I well discern him as he shakes the rein,  
 And hear his shouts victorious o'er the plain.  
 Thus he. Idomeneus incens'd, rejoin'd.  
 Barb'rus of words ! and arrogant of mind !      565

Contentious prince ! of all the Greeks beside  
The last in merit, as the first in pride :  
To vile reproach what answer can we make ?  
A goblet or a tripod let us stake,  
And he the king the judge. The most unwise 570  
Will learn their rashness, when they pay the price.

He said : and Ajax by mad passion born,  
Stern had reply'd ; fierce scorn enhancing scorn  
To fell extremes. But Thetis' godlike son  
Awful amidst them rose, and thus begun. 575

Forbear, ye chiefs ! reproachful to contend ; }  
Much would you blame, should others thus offend : }  
And lo ! th' approaching steeds your contest end.

No sooner had he spoke, but thund'ring near,  
Drives, through a stream of dust, the charioteer. 580  
High o'er his head the circling lash he wields ;  
His bounding horses scarcely touch the fields :

His car amidst the dusty whirlwind roll'd,  
Bright with the mingled blaze of tin and gold,  
Refulgent through the cloud : no eye could find 585  
The track his flying wheels had left behind :  
And the fierce coursers urg'd their rapid pace  
So swift, it seem'd a flight, and not a race.

Now victor at the goal Tydides stands,  
Quits his bright car, and springs upon the sands : 590  
From the hot steeds the sweaty torrents stream ;  
The well-ply'd whip is hung athwart the beam :  
With joy brave Sthenelus receives the prize,  
The tripod vase, and dame with radiant eyes :  
These to the ships his train triumphant leads, 595  
The chief himself unyokes the panting steeds.

Young Nestor follows (who by art not force,,  
O'erpass'd Atrides) in the second course.  
Behind, Atrides urg'd the race more near  
Than to the courser in his swift career 600

The following car, just touching with his heel,  
And brushing with his tail the whirling wheel.  
Such and so narrow now the space between.

'The rivals, late so distant on the green ;  
So soon swift Æthe her lost ground regain'd, 605  
One length, one moment, had the race obtain'd.

Merion pursu'd, at greater distance still,  
With tardier coursers, and inferior skill.

Last came, Admetus ! thy unhappy son ;  
Slow dragg'd the steeds his batter'd chariot on : 610 }  
Achilles saw, and pitying thus begun.

Behold the man whose matchless art surpaſt  
The sons of Greece ! the ableſt, yet the laſt !  
Fortune denies, but justice bids us pay  
(ince great Tydides bears the firſt away) 615 }  
To him the ſecond honours of the day.

The Greeks conſent with loud-applauding cries,  
And then Eumelus had receiv'd the prize ;  
But youthful Nestor, jealous of his fame,  
Th' award oppoſes, and afferts his claim. 620

Think not (he cries) I tamely will resign,  
O Peleus' ſon ! the mare ſo juſtly mine.  
What if the Gods, the ſkilful to confound,  
Have thrown the horse and horſeman to the ground ?  
Perhaps he fought not heav'n by ſacrifice, 625

And vows omitted forfeited the prize.  
If yet (diſtinction to thy friend to show,  
And pleafe a ſoul diſirous to beſtow)  
Some gift muſt grace Eumelus ; view thy ſtore  
Of beauteous handmaids, ſteeds, and ſhining ore, 630  
An ample preſent let him thence receive,  
And Greece ſhall praife thy gen'rous thirſt to give.  
But this my prize I never ſhall forego :  
This who but touches, warriors ! is my foe.

Thus ſpake the youth : nor did his words offend :  
Pleas'd with the well-turn'd flatt'ry of a friend, 636

Book XXIII. H O M E R's I L I A D. 249

Achilles smil'd : The gift propos'd, (he cry'd),  
Antilochus ! we shall ourself provide.  
With plates of brass the corselet cover'd o'er,  
(The same renown'd Asteropæus wore), 640

Whose glitt'ring margins rais'd with silver shine,  
(No vulgar gift), Eumelus, shall be thine.

He said : Automedon at his command  
The corselet brought, and gave it to his hand.

Distinguish'd by his friend, his bosom glows 645  
With gen'rous joy : then Menelaus rose :

The herald plac'd the sceptre in his hands,  
And still'd the clamour of the shouting bands.

Not without cause incens'd at Nestor's son,  
And, inly grieving, thus the king begun : 650

The praise of wisdom, in thy youth obtain'd,  
An act so rash (Antilochus) has stain'd.  
Robb'd of my glory and my just reward,  
To you, O Grecians ! be my wrong declar'd:  
So not a leader shall our conduct blame, 655  
Or judge me envious of a rival's fame.

But shall not we, ourselves, the truth maintain ?  
What needs appealing in a fact so plain ?

What Greek shall blame me, if I bid thee rise,  
And vindicate by oath th' ill-gotten prize ? 660  
Rise if thou dar'st, before thy chariot stand,  
The driving scourge high-lifted in thy hand :  
And touch thy steeds, and swear, thy whole intent  
Was but to conquer, not to circumvent :  
Swear by that God whose liquid arms surround 665  
The globe, and whose dread earthquakes heave the  
ground.

The prudent chief with calm attention heard ;  
Then mildly thus : Excuse, if youth have err'd ;  
Superior as thou art, forgive th' offence,  
Nor I thy equal, or in years, or sense. 670

Thou know'st the errors of unripen'd age,  
 Weak are its counsels, headlong is its rage.  
 The prize I quit, if thou thy wrath resign ;  
 The mare, or aught thou ask'st, be freely thine,  
 Ere I become (from thy dear friendship torn) 675  
 Hateful to thee, and to the Gods forsworn.

So spoke Antilochus ; and at the word  
 The mare contested to the king restor'd.  
 Joy swells his soul : as when the vernal grain  
 Lifts the green ear above the springing plain, 680  
 'The fields their vegetable life renew,  
 And laugh and glitter with the morning dew ;  
 Such joy the Spartan's shining face o'erspread,  
 And lifted his gay heart, while thus he said.

Still may our souls, O gen'rous youth ! agree ; 685  
 'Tis now Atrides' turn to yield to thee  
 Rash heat perhaps a moment might controul,  
 Not break, the settled temper of thy soul.  
 Not but (my friend) 'tis still the wiser way  
 To wave contention with superior sway ; 690  
 For ah ! how few, who should like thee offend,  
 Like thee, have talents to regain the friend ?  
 To plead indulgence, and thy fault atone,  
 Suffice thy father's merit and thy own :  
 Gen'rous alike, for me, the sire and son 695  
 Have greatly suffer'd, and have greatly done.  
 I yield ; that all may know my soul can bend,  
 Nor is my pride preferr'd before my friend.

He said ; and pleas'd, his passion to command,  
 Resign'd the courser to Noemon's hand, 700  
 Friend of the youthful chief : himself content,  
 The shining charger to his vessel sent.  
 The golden talents Merion next obtain'd.  
 The fifth reward, the double bowl, remain'd:  
 Achilles this to rev'rend Nestor bears, 705  
 And thus the purpose of his gift declares.

Accept thou this, O sacred fire ! (he said),  
 In dear memorial of Patroclus dead ;  
 Dead, and for ever lost, Patroclus lies,  
 For ever snatch'd from our desiring eyes ! 710  
 Take thou this token of a grateful heart,  
 Tho' 'tis not thine to hurl the distant dart,  
 The quoit to toss, the pond'rous mace to wield,  
 Or urge the race, or wrestle on the field.  
 Thy present vigour age has overthrown, 715  
 But left the glory of the past thy own.

He said ; and plac'd the goblet at his side ;  
 With joy the venerable king reply'd.

Wisely and well, my son, thy words have prov'd  
 A senior honour'd, and a friend belov'd ! 720  
 Too true it is, deserted of my strength,  
 These wither'd arms and limbs have fail'd at length !  
 Oh ! had I now that force I felt of yore,  
 Known thro' Buprasium and the Pylian shore !  
 Victorious then in ev'ry solemn game, 725  
 Ordain'd to Amarynce's mighty name ;  
 The brave Epeians gave my glory way,  
 Ætolians, Pylians, all resign'd the day.  
 I quell'd Clytomedes in fights of hand,  
 And backward hurl'd Ancæus on the sand, 730  
 Surpass'd Iphyclus in the swift career,  
 Phyleus and Polydorus, with the spear.  
 The sons of Actor won the prize of horse,  
 But won by numbers, not by art or force :  
 For the fam'd twins, impatient to survey 735  
 Prize after prize by Nestor borne away,  
 Sprung to their car ; and with united pains  
 One lash'd the coursers, while one rul'd the reins.  
 Such once I was ! Now to these tasks succeeds  
 A younger race, that emulate our deeds : 740  
 I yield, alas ! (to age who must not yield ?),  
 Tho' once the foremost hero of the field.

## 252 HOMER's ILIAD. Book XXIII.

Go thou, my son ! by gen'rous friendship led,  
 With martial honours decorate the dead ;  
 While pleas'd I take the gift thy hands present, 745  
 (Pledge of benevolence, and kind intent),  
 Rejoic'd, of all the num'rous Greeks, to see  
 Not one but honours sacred age and me :  
 Those due distinctions thou so well canst pay,  
 May the just Gods return another day. 750

Proud of the gift, thus spake the full of days  
 Achilles heard him, prouder of the praise.

The prizes next are order'd to the field,  
 For the bold champions who the cætus wield.  
 A stately mule, as yet by toils unbroke, 755  
 Of six years age, unconscious of the yoke,  
 Is to the circus led, and firmly bound :  
 Next stands a goblet, massy, large, and round.  
 Achilles rising, thus : Let Greece excite  
 Two heroes equal to this hardy fight : 760  
 Who dares his foe with lifted arms provoke,  
 And rush beneath the long descending stroke ?  
 On whom Apollo shall the palm bestow,  
 And whom the Greeks supreme by conquest know,  
 This mule his dauntless labour shall repay : 765  
 The vanquish'd bear the massy bowl away.

This dreadful combat great Epeus chose :  
 High o'er the crowd, enormous bulk ! he rose,  
 And seiz'd the beast, and thus began to say :  
 Stand forth some man, to bear the bowl away ! 770  
 (Price of his ruin :) for who dares deny  
 This mule my right ? th' undoubted victor I.  
 Others, 'tis own'd, in fields of battle shine,  
 But the first honours of this fight are mine :  
 For who excels in all ? Then let my foe 775  
 Draw near, but first his certain fortune know,  
 Secure, this hand shall his whole frame confound,  
 Mash all his bones, and all his body pound :

So let his friends be nigh, a needful train,  
To heave the batter'd carcase off the plain, 780.

The giant spoke: and in a stupid gaze  
The host beheld him, silent with amaze!  
'Twas thou, Euryalus! who durst aspire  
To meet his might, and emulate thy fire,  
The great Mecistheus: who, in days of yore, 785.  
In Theban games the noblest trophy bore,  
(The games ordain'd dead Oedipus to grace),  
And singly vanquish'd the Cadmæan race.  
Him great Tydides urges to contend,  
Warm with the hopes of conquest for his friend: 790.  
Officious with the cincture girds him round;  
And to his wrist the gloves of death are bound.  
Amid the circle now each champion stands,  
And poises high in air his iron hands:  
With clashing gauntlets now they fiercely close, 795.  
Their crackling jaws re-echo to the blows }  
And painful sweat from all their members flows. }  
At length Epeus dealt a weighty blow,  
Full on the cheek of his unwary foe:  
Beneath that pond'rous arm's resistless sway 800.  
Down dropt he, nerveless, and extended lay.  
As a large fish, when winds and waters roar,  
By some huge billow dash'd against the shore,  
Lies panting: not less batter'd with his wound,  
The bleeding hero pants upon the ground, 805.  
To rear his fallen foe, the victor lends,  
Scornful, his hand: and gives him to his friends:  
Whose arms support him, reeling thro' the throng;  
And dragging his disabled legs along;  
Nodding, his head hangs down his shoulder o'er; 810.  
His mouth and nostrils pour the clotted gore;  
Wrapt round in mists he lies, and lost to thought;  
His friends receive the bowl, too dearly bought.

The third bold game Achilles next demands,  
And calls the wrestlers to the level sands: 815  
A massy tripod for the victor lies,  
Of twice six oxen its reputed price;  
And next, the loser's spirits to restore,  
A female captive, valu'd but at four.  
Scarce did the chief the vig'rous strife propose, 820  
When tow'r like Ajax and Ulysses rose.  
Amid the ring each nervous rival stands,  
Embracing rigid with implicit hands:  
Close lock'd above, their heads and arms are mix'd;  
Below, their planted feet, at distance-fix'd: 825  
Like two strong rafters, which the builder forms,  
Proof to the wintry wind and howling storms,  
Their tops connected, but at wider space,  
Fix'd on the centre stands their solid base.  
Now to the grasp each manly body bends; 830  
The humid sweat from ev'ry pore descends;  
Their bones resound with blows: sides, shoulders,  
thighs,  
Swell to each gripe, and bloody tumours rise.  
Nor could Ulysses, for his art renown'd,  
O'erturn the strength of Ajax on the ground; 835  
Nor could the strength of Ajax overthrow  
The watchful caution of his artful foe.  
While the long strife ev'n tir'd the lookers on,  
Thus to Ulysses spoke great Telamon.  
Or let me lift thee, chief, or lift thou me: 840  
Prove we our force, and Jove the rest decree.  
He said; and straining, heav'd him off the ground  
With matchless strength; that time Ulysses found  
The strength t' evade, and where the nerves combine  
His ankle struck: the giant fell supine; 845  
Ulysses following, on his bosom lies:  
Shouts of applause run rattling thro' the skies.

Book XXII. HOMER's ILIAD. 255

Ajax to lift, Ulysses next essays,  
He barely stirr'd him, but he could not raise :  
His knee lock'd fast, the foe's attempt deny'd ; 850  
And grappling close, they tumbled side by side.  
Defil'd with honourable dust, they roll,  
Still breathing strife, and unsubdu'd of soul :  
Again they rage, again to combat rise ;  
When Great Achilles thus divides the prize. 855

Your nobler vigour, oh my friends ! restrain ;  
Nor weary out your gen'rous strength in vain.  
Ye both have won : let others who excel,  
Now prove that prowess you have prov'd so well.

The hero's words the willing chiefs obey, 860  
From their tir'd bodies wipe the dust away,  
And, cloth'd anew, the following games survey.  
And now succeed the gifts ordain'd to grace  
The youths contending in the rapid race :

A silver urn that full six measures held, 865  
By none in weight or workmanship excell'd :  
Sidonian artists taught the frame to shine,  
Elaborate, with artifice divine ;

Whence Tyrian sailors did the prize transport,  
And gave to Thoas at the Lemnian port : 870  
From him descended, good Eunæus heir'd  
The glorious gift, and for Lycaon spar'd,  
To brave Patroclus gave the rich reward.

Now, the same hero's fun'r'al rites to grace,  
It stands the prize of swiftness in the race. 875

A well fed ox was for the second plac'd ;  
And half a talent must content the last.

Achilles rising then bespoke the train :  
Who hope the palm of swiftness to obtain,  
Stand forth, and bear these prizes from the plain. 880

The hero faid : and starting from his place,  
Oilean Ajax rises to the race ;

Ulysses next; and he whose speed surpast  
His youthful equals, Nestor's son the last.

Rang'd in a line the ready racers stand; 885

Pelides points the barrier with his hand;

All start at once; Oileus led the race;

The next Ulysses, meas'ring pace with pace;

Behind him, diligently close, he sped;

As closely following as the running thread 890

The spindle follows, and displays the charms

Of the fair spinster's breast, and moving arms:

Graceful in motion thus, his foe he plies,

And treads each footstep ere the dust can rise;

His glowing breath upon his shoulders plays: 895

Th' admiring Greeks loud acclamations raise,

To him they give their wishes, hearts, and eyes,

And send their souls before him as he flies.

Now three times turn'd, in prospect of the goal,

The panting chief to Pallas lifts his soul: 900

Assist, O Goddess! (thus in thought he pray'd),

And present at his thought descends the maid.

Buoy'd by her heav'nly force, he seems to swim,

And feels a pinion lifting ev'ry limb.

All fierce, and ready now the prize to gain, 905

Unhappy Ajax tumbles on the plain;

(O'erturn'd by Pallas), where the slipp'ry shore

Was clogg'd with slimy dung and mingled gore.

(The self-same place beside Patroclus' pyre,

Where late the slaughter'd victims fed the fire); 910

Besmear'd with filth, and blotted o'er with clay,

Obscene to sight, the rueful racer lay;

The well-fed bull (the second prize) he shar'd,

And left the urn Ulysses' rich reward.

Then, grasping by the horn the mighty beast, 915

The baffled hero thus the Greeks addrest:

Accursed fate! the conquest I forego;

A mortal I, a Goddess was my foe;

Book XXIII: HOMER's ILIAD. 257

She urg'd her fav'rite on the rapid way,  
And Pallas, not Ulysses, won the day. 920

Thus fourly wail'd he, sput'ring dirt and gore,  
A burst of laughter echo'd thro' the shore.  
Antilochus, more hum'rous than the rest,  
Takes the last prize, and takes it with a jest.

Why with our wiser elders should we strive? 925  
The Gods still love them, and they always thrive.  
Ye see, to Ajax I must yield the prize:  
He to Ulysses, still more ag'd and wise;  
(A green old age, unconscicous of decays,  
That proves the hero born in better days!) 930  
Behold his vigour in this active race!  
Achilles only boasts a swifter pace:  
For who can match Achilles! He who can,  
Must yet be more than hero, more than man.

Th' effect succeeds the speech. Pelides cries, 935  
Thy artful praise deserves a better prize:  
Nor Greece in vain shall hear thy friend extoll'd;  
Receive a talent of the purest gold.  
The youth departs content. The host admire  
The son of Nestor, worthy of his fire. 940

Next these a buckler, spear, and helm he brings;  
Cast on the plain, the brazen burthen rings;  
Arms which of late divine Sarpedon wore,  
And great Patroclus in short triumph bore.  
Stand forth the bravest of our host! (he cries); 945  
Whoever dares deserve so rich a prize,  
Now grace the lists before our army's fight,  
And sheath'd in steel, provoke his foe to fight.  
Who first the jointed armour shall explore,  
And stain his rival's mail with issuing gore; 950  
The sword Asteropeus possess'd of old,  
(A Thracian blade, distinct with studs of gold),  
Shall pay the stroke, and grace the striker's sides:  
These arms in common let the chiefs divide.

## 258 HOMER's ILLIAD. Book XXIII.

For each brave champion, when the combat ends, 955  
A sumptuous banquet at our tent attends.

Fierce at the word uprose great Tydeus' son,  
And the huge bulk of Ajax Telamon.  
Clad in resurgent steel, on either hand,  
The dreadful chiefs amid the circle stand : 960  
Louring they meet, tremendous to the fight ;  
Each Argive bosom beats with fierce delight.  
Oppos'd in arms not long they idly stood,  
But thrice they clos'd, and thrice the charge renew'd.  
A furious pass the spear of Ajax made 965  
Through the broad shield, but at the corslet stay'd :  
Not thus the foe ; his jav'lin, aim'd above  
The buckler's margin, at the neck he drove.  
But Greece now trembling for her hero's life,  
Bad share the honours, and surcease the strife. 970  
Yet still the victor's due Tydides gains,  
With him the sword and studded belt remains.

Then hurl'd the hero thund'ring on the ground  
A mass of iron, (an enormous round),  
Whose weight and size the circling Greeks admire, 975  
Rude from the furnace, and but shap'd by fire.  
This mighty quoit Aetion wont to rear,  
And from his whirling arm dismiss in air :  
The giant by Achilles slain, he stow'd  
Among his spoils this memorable load. 980  
For this he bids those nervous artists vie,  
That teach the disk to sound along the sky.  
Let him whose might can hurl this bowl, arise ;  
Who farthest hurls it, take it as his prize :  
If he be one enrich'd with large domain 985  
Of downs for flocks, and arable for grain,  
Small stock of iron needs that man provide ;  
His hinds and swains whole years shall be supply'd  
From hence ; nor ask the neighb'ring city's aid,  
For ploughshares, wheels, and all the rural trade. 990

Stern Polypœtes stept before the throng ;  
 And great Leonteus, more than mortal strong ;  
 Whose force with rival forces to oppose,  
 Uprose great Ajax ; up Epeus rose.  
 Each stood in order : first Epeus threw : 995  
 High o'er the wond'ring crouds the whirling circle flew,  
 Leonteus next a little space surpast ;  
 And third, the strength of Godlike Ajax cast.  
 O'er both their marks it flew ; till fiercely flung  
 From Polypœtes' arm, the discus sung : 1000  
 Far, as a swain his whirling sheephook throws,  
 That distant falls among the grazing cows,  
 So past them all the rapid circle flies :  
 His friends (while loud applauses shake the skies) }  
 With force conjoin'd heave off the weighty prize.

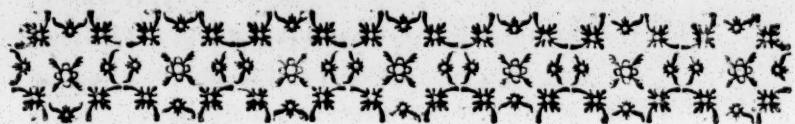
Those who in skilful archery contend, 1006  
 He next invites the twanging bow to bend :  
 And twice ten axes casts amidst the round,  
 (Ten double edg'd, and ten that singly wound).  
 The mast, which late a first rate galley bore, 1010  
 The hero fixes in the sandy shore :  
 To the tall top a milk-white dove they tie,  
 The trembling mark at which their arrows fly.  
 Whose weapon strikes yon flutt'ring bird, shall bear  
 These two edg'd axes, terrible in war ; 1015  
 The single, he whose shaft divides the cord.  
 He said : experienc'd Merion took the word,  
 And skilful Teucer : in the helm they threw  
 Their lots inscrib'd, and forth the latter flew.  
 Swift from the string the sounding arrow flies ; 1020  
 But flies unbless'd ! no grateful sacrifice,  
 No firstling lambs, unheedful ! didst thou vow  
 To Phœbus, patron of the shaft and bow.  
 For this thy well aim'd arrow turn'd aside,  
 Err'd from the dove, yet cut the cord that ty'd : 1025  
 Adown the main-mast fell the parted string,  
 And the free bird to heav'n displays her wing :

Seas, shores, and skies with loud applause resound,  
 And Merion eager meditates the wound :  
 He takes the bow, directs the shaft above, 1030  
 And following with his eye the soaring dove,  
 Implores the God to speed it through the skies,  
 With vows of firstling lambs, and grateful sacrifice.  
 The dove, in airy circles as she wheels,  
 Amid the clouds the piercing arrow feels ; 1035  
 Quite through and through the point its passage found,  
 And at his feet fell bloody to the ground.  
 The wounded bird, ere yet she breath'd her last,  
 With flagging wings alighted on the mast;  
 A moment hung, and spread her pinions there, 1040  
 Then sudden dropt, and left her life in air.  
 From the pleas'd croud new peals of thunder rise,  
 And to the ships brave Merion bears the prize.

To close the fun'r'al games, Achilles last  
 A massy spear amid the circle plac'd, 1045  
 And ample charger of unfullied frame,  
 With flow'r's high wrought, not blacken'd yet by flame.  
 For these he bids the heroes prove their art,  
 Whose dext'rous skill directs the flying dart.  
 Here too great Merion hopes the noble prize ; 1050  
 Nor here disdain'd the king of men to rise.  
 With joy Pelides saw the honour paid,  
 Rose to the monarch, and respectful said.

The first in virtue, as in pow'r supreme,  
 O king of nations ! all thy Greeks proclaim ; 1055  
 In every martial game thy worth attest,  
 And know thee both their greatest and their best.  
 Take then the prize ; but let brave Merion bear  
 This beamy jav'lin in thy brother's war.

Pleas'd from the hero's lips his praise to hear, 1060  
 The king to Merion gives the brazen spear ;  
 But, set apart for sacred use, commands  
 The glitt'ring charger to Talthybins' hands.



T H E

# I L I A D.

B O O K XXIV.

## THE ARGUMENT.

The redemption of the body of Hector.

*The Gods deliberate about the redemption of Hector's body. Jupiter sends Thetis to Achilles to dispose him for the restoring it, and Iris to Priam, to encourage him to go in person, and treat for it. The old king, notwithstanding the remonstrances of his queen, makes ready for the journey, to which he is encouraged by an omen from Jupiter. He sets forth in his chariot, with a waggon loaded with presents, under the charge of Idæus the herald. Mercury descends in the shape of a young man, and conducts him to the pavilion of Achilles. Their conversation on the way. Priam finds Achilles at his table, casts himself at his feet, and begs for the body of his son: Achilles moved with compassion, grants his request, detains him one night in his tent, and the next morning sends him home with the body. The Trojans run out to meet him. The lamentations of Andromache, Hecuba, and Helen, with the solemnities of the funeral.*

The time of twelve days is employed in this book,  
while the body of Hector lies in the tent of Achilles ;  
and as many more are spent in the truce allowed  
for his interment. The scene is partly in Achilles's  
camp, and partly in Troy.

**N**OW from the finish'd games the Grecian band  
Seek their black ships, and clear the crowded  
All stretch'd at ease the genial banquet share, [strand :  
And pleasing slumbers quiet all their care.

Not so Achilles : he, to grief resign'd, 5  
His friend's dear image present to his mind,  
Takes his sad couch, more unobserv'd to weep ;  
Nor tastes the gifts of all-composing sleep.  
Restless he roll'd around his weary bed,  
And all his soul on his Patroclus fed : 10  
The form so pleasing, and the heart so kind,  
That youthful vigour, and that manly mind,  
What toils they shar'd, what martial works they  
wrought,

What seas they measur'd, and what fields they sought ;  
All pass'd before him in remembrance dear ; 15  
Thought follows thought, and tear succeeds to tear.  
And now supine, now prone, the hero lay,  
Now shifts his side, impatient for the day :  
Then starting up, disconsolate he goes  
Wide on the lonely beach to vent his woes. 20  
There as the solitary mourner raves,  
The ruddy morning rises o'er the waves :  
Soon as it rose, his furious steeds he join'd ;  
The chariot flies, and Hector trails behind.  
And thrice, Patroclus ! round thy monument 25  
Was Hector dragg'd, then hurry'd to the tent.  
There sleep, at last, o'ercomes the hero's eyes :  
While foul in dust the unhonour'd carcase lies,  
But not deserted by the pitying skies : } }

Book XXIV. HOMER's ILIAD. 263

For Phœbus watch'd it with superior care, 30  
Preserv'd from gaping wounds, and tainting air ;  
And ignominious as it swept the field,  
Spread o'er the sacred corse his golden shield.  
All heav'n was mov'd, and Hermes will'd to go  
By stealth to snatch him from th' insulting foe ; 35  
But Neptune this, and Pallas this denies,  
And th' unrelenting emprefs of the skies :  
E'er since that day implacable to Troy,  
What time young Paris, simple shepherd boy,  
Won by destructive lust, (reward obscene), 40  
Their charms rejected for the Cyprian queen.  
But when the tenth celestial morning broke,  
To heav'n assembled thus Apollo spoke.

Unpitying pow'rs ! how oft each holy fane  
Has Hector ting'd with blood of victims slain ? 45  
And can ye still his cold remains pursue ?  
Still grudge his body to the Trojans view ?  
Deny to confort, mother, son, and sire,  
The last sad hon'rs of a funeral fire ?  
Is then the dire Achilles all your care ? 50  
That iron heart, inflexibly severe ;  
A lion, not a man, who slaughters wide  
In strength of rage, and impotence of pride ;  
Who hates to murder with a savage joy,  
Invades around, and breathes but to destroy. 55  
Shame is not of his soul ; nor understood,  
The greatest evil and the greatest goëd.  
Still for one loss he rages unresign'd,  
Repugnant to the lot of all mankind ;  
To lose a friend, a brother, or a son, 60  
Heav'n dooms each mortal, and its will is done :  
A while they sorrow, then dismiss their care ;  
Fate gives the wound, and man is born to bear.  
But this, infatiate, the commission giv'n  
By fate, exceeds ; and tempts the wrath of heav'n : 65

## 264 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XXIV.

Lo, how his rage dishonest drags along  
Hector's dead earth insensible of wrong !  
Brave tho' he be, yet by no reason aw'd,  
He violates the laws of man and God.

If equal honours by the partial skies 70  
Are doom'd both heroes, (Juno thus replies),  
If Thetis' son must no distinction know,  
Then hear, ye Gods ! the patron of the bow.  
But Hector only boasts a mortal claim ;  
His birth deriving from a mortal dame : 75  
Achilles of your own æthereal race  
Springs from a Goddess by a man's embrace ;  
(A Goddess by ourself to Peleus giv'n,  
A man divine, and chosen friend of heav'n.)  
To grace those nuptials, from the bright abode 80  
Yourselves were present, where this minstrel God  
(Well pleas'd to share the feast) amid the quire  
Stood proud to hymn, and tune his youthful lyre.

Then thus the Thund'rer checks th' imperial dame : }  
Let not thy wrath the court of heav'n inflame ; 85 }  
Their merits, not their honours, are the same.  
But mine, and ev'ry God's peculiar grace  
Hector deserves, of all the Trojan race :  
Still on our shrines his grateful off'rings lay, 90  
(The only honours men to Gods can pay);  
Nor ever from our smoaking altar ceas't  
The pure libation, and the holy feast.  
Howe'er by stealth to snatch the corse away,  
We will not ; Thetis guards it night and day.  
But haste, and summon to our courts above 95  
The azure queen ; let her persuasion move  
Her furious son from Priam to receive  
The proffer'd ransom, and the corse to leave.

He added not : and Iris from the skies,  
Swift as a whirlwind, on the message flies, 100

Meteorous the face of ocean sweeps,  
Refulgent gliding o'er the sable deeps.  
Between where Samos wide his forests spreads,  
And rocky Imbrus lifts its pointed heads,  
Down plung'd the maid ; (the parted waves resound),  
She plung'd, and instant shot the dark profound. 106  
As bearing death in the fallacious bait,  
From the bent angle sinks the leaden weight;  
So pass'd the Goddess thro' the closing wave,  
Where Thetis sorrow'd in her sacred cave: 110  
There plac'd amidst her melancholy train,  
(The blue hair'd sisters of the sacred main),  
Penitive she sat, revolving fates to come,  
And wept her godlike son's approaching doom.

Then thus the Goddess of the painted bow. 115  
Arise, O Thetis ! from thy seats below ;  
'Tis Jove that calls. And why (the dame replies)  
Calls Jove his Thetis to the hated skies ?  
Sad object as I am for heav'nly fight !  
Ah may my sorrows ever shun the light ! 120  
However, be heav'n's almighty fire obey'd—  
She spake, and veil'd her head in sable shade,  
Which, flowing long, her graceful person clad ;  
And forth she pac'd, majestically sad. 125

Then thro' the world of waters they repair 125  
(The way fair Iris led) to upper air.  
The deeps dividing, o'er the coast they rise,  
And touch with momentary flight the skies.  
There in the lightning's blaze the fire they found,  
And all the Gods in shining synod round. 130  
Thetis approach'd with anguish in her face ;  
(Minerva rising, gave the mourner place) ;  
Ev'n Juno sought her sorrows to console,  
And offer'd from her hand the nectar bowl :  
She tasted, and resign'd it. Then began 135  
The sacred fire of Gods and mortal man :

Thou com'st, fair Thetis ! but with grief o'ercast ;  
 Maternal sorrows, long, ah long to last !  
 Suffice, we know and we partake thy cares :  
 But yield to fate, and hear what Jove declares. 140  
 Nine days are pass'd, since all the court above  
 In Hector's cause have mov'd the ear of Jove ;  
 'Twas voted, Hermes from his godlike foe  
 By stealth should bear him, but we will'd not so :  
 We will thy son himself the corse restore, 145  
 And to his conquest add this glory more.  
 Then hie thee to him, and our mandate bear ;  
 Tell him he tempts the wrath of heav'n too far :  
 Nor let him more (our anger if he dread)  
 Vent his mad vengeance on the sacred dead ; 150  
 But yield to ransom, and the father's pray'r.  
 The mournful father Iris shall prepare,  
 With gifts to sue ; and offer to his hands  
 Whate'er his honour asks, or heart demands.  
 His word the silver footed queen attends, 155  
 And from Olympus' snowy tops descends.  
 Arriv'd, she heard the voice of loud lament,  
 And echoing groans that shook the lofty tent.  
 His friends prepare the victim, and dispose  
 Repast unheeded, while he vents his woes. 160  
 Goddess seats her by her pensive son,  
 She press'd his hand, and tender thus begun.  
 How long, unhappy ! shall thy sorrows flow,  
 And thy heart waste with life-consuming wo ?  
 Mindless of food, or love, whose pleasing reign 165  
 Sooths weary life, and softens human pain ?  
 O snatch the moments yet within thy pow'r ;  
 Not long to live, indulge the am'rous hour !  
 Lo ! Jove himself (for Jove's command I bear)  
 Forbids to tempt the wrath of heav'n too far. 170  
 No longer then (his fury if thou dread)  
 Detain the relics of great Hector dead ;

Book XXIV. H O M E R's I L I A D. 267

Nor vent on senseless earth thy vengeance vain,  
But yield to ransom, and restore the slain.

To whom Achilles : Be the ransom giv'n, 175  
And we submit, since such the will of heav'n.

While thus they commun'd, from th' Olympian  
bow'r's

Jove orders Iris to the Trojan tow'r's.

Haste, winged Goddess ! to the sacred town,  
And urge her monarch to redeem his son; 180

Alone the Ilian ramparts let him leave,  
And bear what stern Achilles may receive :

Alone, for so we will : no Trojan near,  
Except to place the dead with decent care,

Some aged herald, who with gentle hand 185  
May the slow mules and fun'ral car command.

Nor let him death, nor let him danger dread,  
Safe through the foe by our protection led :

Him Hermes to Achilles shall convey,  
Guard of his life, and partner of his way. 190

Fierce as he is, Achilles' self shall spare  
His age, nor touch one venerable hair :

Some thought there must be in a soul so brave,  
Some sense of duty, some desire to save.

Then down her bow the winged Iris drives, 195  
And swift at Priam's mournful court arrives ;

Where the sad sons beside their father's throne  
Sat bath'd in tears, and answer'd groan with groan.

And all amidst them lay the hoary fire,  
(Sad scene of wo !) his face his wrapt attire 200

Conceal'd from sight ; with frantic hands he spread  
A show'r of ashes o'er his neck and head.

From room to room his pensive daughters roam ;  
Whose shrieks and clamours fill the vaulted dome ;

Mindful of those, who, late their pride and joy, 205  
Lie pale and breathless round the fields of Troy !

Before the king Jove's messenger appears,  
And thus in whispers greets his trembling ears,

Fear not, oh father! no ill news I bear:

From Jove I come, Jove makes thee still his care: 210

For Hector's sake these walls he bids thee leave,

And bear what stern Achilles may receive;

Alone, for so he wills: no Trojan near,

Except to place the dead with decent care,

Some aged herald, who with gentle hand 215

May the slow mules and fun'ral car command.

Nor shalt thou death, nor shalt thou danger dread;

Safe through the foe by his protection led;

Thee Hermes to Pelides shall convey,

Guard of thy life, and partner of thy way. 220

Fierce as he is, Achilles' self shall spare

Thy age, nor touch one venerable hair;

Some thought there must be in a soul so brave,

Some sense of duty, some desire to save.

She spoke, and vanish'd. Priam bids prepare 225

His gentle mules, and harness to the car;

There, for the gifts, a polish'd casket lay:

His pious sons the king's command obey.

Then pass'd the monarch to his bridal room,

Where cedar beams the lofty roofs perfume, 230

And where the treasures of his empire lay:

Then call'd his queen, and thus began to say.

'Unhappy consort of a king distress!

Partake the troubles of thy husband's breast:

I saw descend the messenger of Jove, 235

Who bids me try Achilles' mind to move;

Forsake these ramparts, and with gifts obtain

The corpse of Hector, at yon navy, slain.

Tell me thy thought: my heart impels to go

Through hostile camps, and bears me to the foe. 240

The hoary monarch thus. Her piercing cries

Sad Hecuba renews, and then replies.

Book XXIV. HOMER'S ILIAD. 269

Ah! whither wanders thy distemper'd mind?  
And where the prudence now that aw'd mankind;  
Through Phrygia once, and foreign regions known;  
Now all confus'd, distracted, overthrown? 246

Singly to pass through hells of foes! to face  
(Oh heart of steel!) the murd'rer of thy race!  
To view that deathful eye, and wander o'er  
Those hands yet red with Hector's noble gore! 250  
Alas, my lord! he knows not how to spare;  
And what his mercy, thy slain sons declare;  
So brave! so many fall'n! to calm his rage  
Vain were thy dignity, and vain thy age.

No—pent in this sad palace, let us give 255  
To grief the wretched days we have to live.  
Still, still for Hector let our sorrows flow,  
Born to his own and to his parents wo!

Doom'd from the hour his luckless life begun,  
To dogs, to vultures, and to Peleus' son! 260  
Oh! in his dearest blood might I allay  
My rage, and these barbarities repay!

For ah! could Hector merit thus, whose breath  
Expir'd not meanly, in unactive death?  
He pour'd his latest blood in manly fight, 265  
And fell a hero in his country's right.

Seek not to stay me, nor my soul affright  
With words of omen, like a bird of night,  
(Reply'd unmov'd the venerable man).

'Tis heav'n commands me, and you urge in vain. 270  
Had any mortal voice th' injunction laid,  
Nor augur, priest, or seer had been obey'd.  
A present Goddess brought the high command;  
I saw, I heard her, and the word shall stand.

I go, ye Gods! obedient to your call: 275  
If in your camp your pow'rs have doom'd my fall,  
Content—By the same hand let me expire!  
Add to the slaughter'd son the wretched sire!

## 270 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XXIV.

One cold embrace at least may be allow'd,  
And my last tears flow mingled with his blood ! 280

From forth his open'd stores, this said, he drew  
Twelve costly carpets of resplendent hue,  
As many vests, as many mantles told,  
And twelve fair veils and garments stiff with gold :  
Two tripods next, and twice two chargers shine, 285  
With ten pure talents from the richest mine;  
And last a large well labour'd bowl had place,  
(The pledge of treaties once with friendly Thrace);  
Seem'd all too mean the stores he could employ,  
For one last look to buy him back to Troy ! 290

Lo ! the sad father, frantic with his pain,  
Around him furious drives his menial train :  
In vain each slave with duteous care attends ;  
Each office hurts him, and each face offends.  
What make ye here ? officious crowds ! (he cries) ;  
Hence ! nor obtrude your anguish on my eyes. 295

Have ye no griefs at home, to fix ye there ?  
Am I the only object of despair ?  
Am I become my people's common show,  
Set up by Jove your spectacle of wo ? 300

No, you must feel him too ; yourselves must fall ;  
The same stern God to ruin gives you all :  
Nor is great Hector lost by me alone ;  
Your sole defence, your guardian pow'r is gone !  
I see your blood the fields of Phrygia drown, 305

I see the ruins of your smoaking town !  
Oh send me, Gods ! ere that sad day shall come,  
A willing ghost to Pluto's dreary dome !

He said, and feebly drives his friends away :  
The sorrowing friends his frantic rage obey. 310

Next on his sons his erring fury falls,  
Polites, Paris, Agathon he calls,  
His threats Deiphobus and Dius hear,  
Hippothous, Pammon, Helenus the seer,

Book XXIV.	HOMER's ILIAD.	271
And gen'rous Antiphon ; for yet these nine Surviv'd, sad relics of his num'rous line.		315
Inglorious sons of an unhappy fire ! Why did not all in Hector's cause expire ? Wretch that I am ! my bravest offspring slain, You, the disgrace of Priam's house, remain !	320	
Mefor the brave, renown'd in ranks of war, With Troilus, dreadful on his rushing car, And last great Hector, more than man divine, For sure he seem'd not of terrestrial line !		325
All those relentless Mars untimely flew, And left me these, a soft and servile crew, Whose days the feast and wanton dance employ, Gluttons and flatt'lers, the contempt of Troy !	330	
Why teach ye not my rapid wheels to run, And speed my journey to redeem my son ?		330
The sons their father's wretched age revere, Forgive his anger, and produce the car. High on the seat the cabinet they bind ; The new-made car with solid beauty shin'd ;	335	
Box was the yoke, emboss'd with costly pains, And hung with ringlets to receive the reins : Nine cubits long the traces swept the ground ; These to the chariot's polish'd pole they bound,		
Then fix'd a ring the running reins to guide, And close beneath the gather'd ends were ty'd.	340	
Next with the gifts (the price of Hector slain) The sad attendants load the groaning wain : Last to the yoke the well-match'd mules they bring, (The gift of Mysia to the Trojan king).		
But the fair horses, long his darling care, Himself receiv'd, and harness'd to his car : Griev'd as he was, he not this task deny'd ; The hoary herald help'd him, at his side.	345	
While careful these the gentle coursers join'd, Sad Hecuba approach'd with anxious mind ;		350

A golden bowl that foam'd with fragrant wine,  
(Libation destin'd to the pow'r divine),  
Held in her right, before the steeds she stands,  
And thus consigns it to the monarch's hands.

Take this, and pour to Jove ; that safe from harms  
His grace restore thee to our roof and arms. 356  
Since victor of thy fears, and slighting mine,  
Heav'n, or thy soul, inspire this bold design ;  
Pray to that God, who high on Ida's brow  
Surveys thy desolated realms below, 360  
His winged messenger to send from high,  
And lead thy way with heav'nly augury ;  
Let the strong sov'reign of the plumy race  
Tow'r on the right of yon æthereal space.  
That sign beheld, and strengthen'd from above, 365  
Boldly pursue the journey mark'd by Jove ;  
But if the God his augury denies,  
Suppress thy impulse, nor reject advice.

'Tis just (said Priam) to the fire above  
To raise our hands ; for who so good as Jove ? 370  
He spoke, and bade th' attendant handmaid bring  
The purest water of the living spring :  
(Her ready hands the ew'r and basin held) :  
Then took the golden cup his queen had fill'd ;  
On the mid pavement pours the rosy wine, 375  
Uplifts his eyes, and calls the pow'r divine.

Oh first, and greatest ! heav'n's imperial lord !  
On lofty Ida's holy hill ador'd !  
To stern Achilles now direct my ways,  
And teach him mercy when a father prays. 380  
If such thy will, dispatch from yonder sky  
Thy sacred bird, celestial augury !  
Let the strong sov'reign of the plumy race  
Tow'r on the right of yon æthereal space :  
So shall thy suppliant, strengthen'd from above, 385  
Fearless pursue the journey mark'd by Jove.

Jove heard his pray'r, and from the throne on high  
Dispatch'd his bird, celestial augury !

The swift wing'd chaser of the feather'd game,  
And known to Gods by Perenos' lofty name. 390  
Wide, as appears some palace-gate display'd,  
So broad his pinions stretch'd their ample shade,  
As stooping dexter with resounding wings  
Th' imperial bird descends in airy rings.

A dawn of joy in ev'ry face appears ; 395  
The mourning matron dries her tim'rous tears.  
Swift on the car th' impatient monarch sprung ;  
The brazen portal in his passage rung.

The mules preceding draw the loaded wain,  
Charg'd with the gifts : Idæus holds the rein : 400  
The king himself his gentle steeds controls,  
And thro' surrounding friends the chariot rolls.  
On his slow wheels the following people wait,  
Mourn at each step, and give him up to fate ;  
With hands uplifted, eye him as he past, 405  
And gaze upon him, as they gaz'd their last.

Now forward fares the father on his way,  
Thro' the lone fields, and back to Ilion they.  
Great Jove beheld him as he cross'd the plain,  
And felt the woes of miserable man. 410

Then thus to Hermes : Thou whose constant cares  
Still succour mortals, and attend their pray'rs ;  
Behold an object to thy charge confign'd :  
If ever pity touch'd thee for mankind ;  
Go, guard the fire ; th' observing foe prevent, 415  
And safe conduct him to Achilles' tent.

The God obeys, his golden pinions binds,  
And mounts incumbent on the wings of winds,  
That high, thro' fields of air, his flight sustain  
O'er the wide earth, and o'er the boundless main : 420  
Then grasps the wand that causes sleep to fly,  
Or in soft slumbers seals the wakeful eye ;

Thus arm'd, swift Hermes steers his airy way,  
And stoops on Helle-spont's resounding sea.

A beauteous youth, majestic and divine, 425

He seem'd ; fair offspring of some princely line !

Now twilight veil'd the glaring face of day,

And clad the dusky fields in sober gray ;

What time the herald and the hoary king

(Their chariots stopping at the silver spring, 430

That circling Ilus' ancient marble flows)

Allow'd their mules and steeds a short repose.

Through the dim shade the herald first espies

A man's approach, and thus to Priam cries.

I mark some foe's advance : O king ! beware ; 435

This hard adventure claims thy utmost care :

For much I fear, destruction hovers nigh :

Our state asks counsel ; is it best to fly ?

Or, old and helpless, at his feet to fall,

(Two wretched suppliants), and for mercy call ? 440

Th' afflicted monarch shiver'd with despair ;

Pale grew his face, and upright stood his hair ;

Sunk was his heart ; his colour went and came ;

A sudden trembling shook his aged frame :

When Hermes greeting, touch'd his royal hand, 445

And gentle, thus accosts with kind demand.

Say whither, father ! when each mortal sight

Is seal'd in sleep, thou wander'st thro' the night ?

Why roam thy mules and steeds the plains along,

Thro' Grecian foes, so num'rous and so strong ? 450

What couldst thou hope, should these thy treasures  
view ;

These, who with endless hate thy race pursue ?

For what defence, alas ! couldst thou provide ;

Thyself not young, a weak old man thy guide ?

Yet suffer not thy soul to sink with dread ; 455

From me no harm shall touch thy rev'rend head ;

From Greece I'll guard thee too; for in those lines  
The living image of my father shines.

Thy words, that speak benevolence of mind,  
Are true, my son! (the godlike fire rejoin'd); 460  
Great are my hazards; but the Gods survey  
My steps, and send thee, guardian of my way.  
Hail, and be bless'd! for scarce of mortal kind  
Appear thy form, thy feature, and thy mind.

Nor true are all thy words, nor erring wide; 465  
(The sacred messenger of heav'n reply'd:  
But say, convey'st thou thro' the lonely plains  
What yet most precious of thy store remains,  
To lodge in safety with some friendly hand;  
Prepar'd, perchance, to leave thy native land? 470  
Or fly'st thou now?—What hopes can Troy retain;  
Thy matchless son, her guard and glory, slain?

The king alarm'd: Say what, and whence thou art,  
Who search the sorrows of a parent's heart,  
And know so well how godlike Hector dy'd? 475  
Thus Priam spoke, and Hermes thus reply'd.

You tempt me, father, and with pity touch:  
On this sad subject you inquire too much.  
Oft have these eyes that godlike Hector view'd  
In glorious fight, with Grecian blood embru'd: 480  
I saw him, when, like Jove, his flames he tost  
On thousand ships, and wither'd half an host;  
I saw, but help'd not: stern Achilles' ire  
Forbade assistance, and enjoy'd the fire.  
For him I serve, of Myrmidonian race; 485  
One ship convey'd us from our native place:  
Polyctor is my sire, an honour'd name,  
Old like thyself, and not unknown to fame;  
Of seven his sons, by whom the lot was cast  
To serve our prince, it fell on me, the last. 490  
To watch this quarter, my adventure falls:  
For with the morn the Greeks attack your walls;

Sleepless they sit, impatient to engage,  
And scarce their rulers check their martial rage.

If then thou art of stern Pelides' train, 495  
(The mournful monarch thus rejoin'd again),  
Ah tell me truly, where, oh ! where are laid  
My son's dear relics ? what befals him dead ?  
Have dogs dismember'd (on the naked plains),  
Or yet unmangled rest, his cold remains ? 500

O favour'd of the valiant skies ! (thus answer'd then  
The pow'r that mediates between Gods and men) ;  
Nor dogs nor vultures have thy Hector rent,  
But whole he lies, neglected in the tent :

This the twelfth evening since he rested there, 505  
Untouch'd by worms, untainted by the air.

Still as Aurora's ruddy beam is spread,  
Round his friend's tomb Achilles drags the dead ;  
Yet undisfigur'd, or in limb or face,  
All fresh he lies, with ev'ry living grace, 510  
Majestical in death ! No stains are found  
O'er all the corse, and clos'd is ev'ry wound ;  
(Tho' many a wound they gave). Some heav'nly care,  
Some hand divine, preserves him ever fair :  
Or all the host of heav'n, to whom he led 515  
A life so grateful, still regard him dead.

Thus spoke to Priam the celestial guide,  
And joyful thus the royal sire reply'd.

Bless'd is the man who pays the Gods above  
The constant tribute of respect and love ! 520  
Those who inhabit the Olympian bow'r,  
My son forgot not, in exalted pow'r ;  
And heav'n, that ev'ry virtue bears in mind,  
Ev'n to the ashes of the just is kind.  
But thou, oh gen'rous youth ! this goblet take, 525  
A pledge of gratitude for Hector's sake ;  
And while the fav'ring Gods our steps survey,  
Safe to Pelides' tent conduct my way.

To whom the latent God: O king, forbear  
 To tempt my youth, for apt in youth to err :      530  
 But can I, absent from my prince's sight,  
 Take gifts in secret, that must shun the light ?  
 What from our master's int'rest thus we draw,  
 Is but a licens'd theft that 'scapes the law.  
 Respecting him, my soul abjures th' offence;      535  
 And as the crime I dread the consequence.  
 Thee, far as Argos, pleas'd I could convey,  
 Guard of thy life, and partner of thy way ;  
 On thee attend, thy safety to maintain,  
 O'er pathless forests, or the roaring main.      540

He said, then took the chariot at a bound,  
 And snatch'd the reins, and whrl'd the lash around :  
 Before th' inspiring God that urg'd them on,  
 The coursers fly, with spirit not their own.  
 And now they reach'd the naval walls, and found      545  
 The guards repasting, while the bowls go round ;  
 On these the virtue of his wand he tries,  
 And pours deep slumber on their watchful eyes :  
 Then heav'd the massy gates, remov'd the bars,  
 And o'er the trenches led the rolling cars.      550  
 Unseen, thro' all the hostile camp they went,  
 And now approach'd Pelides' lofty tent.  
 On firs the roof was rais'd, and cover'd o'er  
 With reeds collected from the marshy shore ;  
 And, fenc'd w<sup>t</sup>h palisades, a hall of state,      555  
 (The work of soldiers), where the hero sat.  
 Large was the door, whose well compacted strength  
 A solid pine-tree barr'd, of wondrous length ;  
 Scarce three strong Greeks could lift its mighty weight.  
 But great Achilles singly clos'd the gate.      560  
 This Hermes (such the pow'r of Gods) set wide ;  
 Then swift alighted the celestial guide,  
 And thus, reveal'd—Hear, prince ! and understand  
 Thou ow'st thy guidance to no mortal hand :

Hermes I am, descended from above, 565  
 The king of arts, the messenger of Jove.

Farewell. To shun Achilles fight I fly;  
 Uncommon are such favours of the sky,

Nor stand confess'd to frail mortaliy. }  
 Now fearless enter, and prefer thy pray'rs;

Adjure him by his father's silver hairs,  
 His son, his mother! urge him to bestow

Whatever pity that stern heart can know.

Thus having said, he vanish'd from his eyes,  
 And in a moment shot into the skies: 575

The king, confirm'd from heav'n, alighted there,  
 And left his aged herald on the car.

With solemn pace thro' various rooms he went,  
 And found Achilles in his inner tent:

There sat the hero: Alcimus the brave, 580  
 And great Automedon, attendance gave:

These serv'd his person at the royal feast;  
 Around, at awful distance, stood the rest.

Unseen by these, the king his entry made;  
 And prostrate now before Achilles laid, 585

Sudden, (a venerable sight!) appears;  
 Embrac'd his knees, and bath'd his hands in tears;

Those direful hands his kisses press'd, embru'd  
 Ev'n with the best, and dearest of his blood!

As when a wretch, (who conscious of his crime, 590  
 Pursu'd for murder, flies his native clime),

Just gains some frontier, breathless! pale! amaz'd!  
 All gaze, all wonder: thus Achilles gaz'd:

Thus stood th attendants, stupid with surprize;  
 All mute, yet seem'd to question with their eyes: 595

Each look'd on other, none the silence broke,  
 Till thus at last the kingly suppliant spoke.

Ah think, thou favour'd of the pow'r's divine!  
 Think of thy father's age, and pity mine!

Book XXIV. HOMER's ILIAD. 279

In me, that father's rev'rend image trace, 600

Those silver hairs, that venerable face;

His trembling limbs, his helpless person, see!

In all my equal, but in misery!

Yet now, perhaps, some turn of human fate

Expels him, helpless, from his peaceful state; 605

Think, from some pow'rful foe thou seest him fly,

And beg protection with a feeble cry.

Yet still one comfort in his soul may rise;

He hears his son still lives to glad his eyes;

And hearing, still may hope a better day

May send him thee to chace that foe away.

No comfort to my griefs, no hopes remain;

The best, the bravest of my sons are slain!

Yet what a race, ere Greece to Ilion came!

The pledge of many a lov'd and loving dame: 615

Nineteen one mother bore!—Dead, all are dead!

How oft, alas! has wretched Priam bled?

Still one was left, their loss to recompense;

His father's hope, his country's last defence.

Him too thy rage has slain! beneath thy steel, 620

Unhappy! in his country's cause he fell!

For him thro' hostile camps I bent my way,

For him thus prostrate at thy feet I lay;

Large gifts proportion'd to thy wrath I bear;

Oh hear the wretched, and the Gods revere! 625

Think of thy father, and this face behold!

See him in me, as helpless and as old!

Tho' not so wretched: there he yields to me,

The first of men in sov'reign misery!

Thus forc'd to kneel, thus grov'ling to embrace 630

The scourge and ruin of my realm and race:

Suppliant my children's murtherer to implore,

And kiss those hands yet reeking with their gore!

These words soft pity in the chief inspire,

Touch'd with the dear remembrance of his sire. 635

Then with his hand (as prostrate still he lay)  
 The old man's cheek he gently turn'd away.  
 Now each by turns indu'g'd the gush of wo;  
 And now the mingled tides together flow:  
 This low on earth, that gently bending o'er,  
 A father one, and one a son deplore:  
 But great Achilles diff'rent passions rend,  
 And now his fire he mourns, and now his friend.  
 Th' infectious softness thro' the heroes ran;  
 One universal solemn shew'r began;  
 They bore as heroes, but they felt as man. } 645

Satiate at length with unavailing woes,  
 From the high throne divine Achilles rose;  
 The rev'rend monarch by the hand he rais'd;  
 On his white beard and form majestic gaz'd,  
 Not unrelenting: then serene began  
 With words to sooth the miserable man.

Alas! what weight of anguish hast thou known?  
 Unhappy prince! thus guardleis and alone  
 To pass thro' foes, and thus undaunted face } 655  
 The man whose fury has destroy'd thy race?  
 Heav'n sure has arm'd thee with a heart of steel,  
 A strength proportion'd to the woes you feel.  
 Rise then: let reason mitigate our care:  
 To mourn, avails not: man is born to bear. } 660  
 Such is, alas! the Gods severe decree:  
 They, only they are bless'd, and only free.  
 Two urns by Jove's high throne have ever stood,  
 The source of evil one, and one of good;  
 From thence the cup of mortal man he fills,  
 Blessings to these, to those distributes ill; } 665  
 To most he mingles both: the wretch decreed  
 To taste the bad, unmix'd, is curs'd indeed;  
 Pursu'd by wrongs, by meagre famine driv'n,  
 He wanders, outcast both of earth and heav'n. } 670

The happiest taste not happiness sincere,  
But find the cordial draught is dash'd with care.  
Who more than Peleus shone in wealth and pow'r?  
What stars concurring bless'd his natal hour?  
A realm, a Goddess, to his wishes giv'n; 675  
Grac'd by the Gods with all the gifts of heav'n!  
One evil yet o'er takes his latest day:  
No race succeeding to imperial sway;  
An only son; and he (alas!) ordain'd  
To fall untimely in a foreign land. 680

See him, in Troy, the pious care decline,  
Of his weak age, to live the curse of thine!  
Thou too, old man, hast happier days beheld;  
In riches once, in children once excell'd;  
Extended Phrygia own'd thy ample reign, 685  
And all fair Lesbos' blissful seats contain,  
And all wide Hellespont's unmeasur'd main.  
But since the God his hand has pleas'd to turn,  
And fill thy measure from his bitter urn,  
What sees the sun, but hapless heroes falls? 690  
War, and the blood of men, surround thy walls!  
What must be, must be. Bear thy lot, nor shed  
These unavailing sorrows o'er the dead;  
Thou canst not call him from the Stygian shore;  
But thou, alas! mayst live to suffer more! 695

To whom the king: Oh favour'd of the skies!  
Here let me grow to earth! since Hector lies  
On the bare beach, depriv'd of obsequies.  
Oh give me Hector! to my eyes restore  
His corse, and take the gifts: I ask no more. 700  
Thou, as thou mayst, these biendly stores enjoy;  
Safe mayst thou fail, and turn thy wrath from Troy;  
So shall thy pity and forbearance give  
A weak old man to see the light and live!  
Move me no more, (Achilles thus replies, 705  
While kindling anger sparkled in his eyes);

Nor seek by tears my steady soul to bend;  
 To yield thy Hector I myself intend:  
 For know, from Jove my Goddess-mother came,  
 (Old Ocean's daughter, silver footed dame); 710  
 Nor com'st thou but by heav'n; nor com'st alone,  
 Some God impels with courage not thy own;  
 No human hand the weighty gates unbarr'd,  
 Nor could the boldest of our youth have dar'd  
 To pass our outworks, or elude the guard. 715  
 Cease; lest, negligent of high Jove's command,  
 I show thee, king! thou tread'st on hostile land;  
 Release my knees, thy suppliant arts give o'er,  
 And shake the purpose of my soul no more.

The fire obey'd him, trembling and o'eraw'd. 720  
 Achilles, like a lion, rush'd abroad;  
 Automedon and Alcimus attend,  
 (Whom most he honour'd since he lost his friend);  
 These to unyoke the mules and horses went,  
 And led the hoary herald to the tent; 725  
 Next heap'd on high the num'rous presents bear  
 (Great Hector's ransom) from the polish'd car.  
 Two splendid mantles, and a carpet spread,  
 They leave, to cover, and inwrap the dead.  
 Then call the handmaids with assistant toil 730  
 To wash the body and anoint with oil;  
 Apart from Priam; lest th' unhappy fire  
 Provok'd to passion, once more rouse to ire  
 The stern Pelides; and not sacred age,  
 Nor Jove's command, should check the rising rage. 735  
 Thus done, the garments o'er the corsè they spread;  
 Achilles lifts it to the fun'r'al bed:  
 Then, while the body on the car they laid,  
 He groans, and calls on lov'd Patroclus' shade.  
 If in that gloom, which never light must know,  
 The deeds of mortals touch the ghosts below; 741

Book XXIV. H O M E R's I L I A D. 283

O friend ! forgive me, that I thus fulfil  
(Restoring Hector) heav'n's unquestion'd will.  
The gifts the father gave, be ever thine,  
To grace thy manes, and adorn thy shrine. 745

He said, and ent'ring, took his seat of state,  
Where full before him rev'rend Priam sat :  
To whom, compos'd the godlike chief begun.  
Lo ! to thy pray'r restor'd thy breathless son ;  
Extended on the funeral couch he lies ; } 750  
And soon as morning paints the eastern skies,  
The sight is granted to thy longing eyes.  
But now the peaceful hours of sacred night  
Demand res'ction, and to rest invite :  
Nor thou, O father ! thus consum'd with wo, 755

The common cares that nourish life, forego.  
Not thus did Niobe, of form divine,  
A parent once, whose sorrows equall'd thine :  
Six youthful sons, as many blooming maids,  
In one sad day beheld the Stygian shades ; 760  
Those by Apollo's silver bow were slain,  
These Cynthia's arrows stretch'd upon the plain :  
So was her pride chastis'd by wrath divine,  
Who match'd her own with bright Latona's line ;  
But two the Goddess, twelve the queen enjoy'd ; 765  
Those boasted twelve th' avenging two destroy'd.  
Steep'd in their blood, and in the dust outspread,  
Nine days, neglected, lay expos'd the dead ;  
None by to weep them, to inhume them none ;  
(For Jove had turn'd the nation all to stone) : 770

The Gods themselves at length relenting, gave  
Th' unhappy race the honours of a grave.  
Herself a rock, (for such was heav'n's high will)  
Through desarts wild now pours a weeping rill ;  
Where round the bed whence Achelous springs, 775  
The wat'ry fairies dance in mazy rings,

## 284 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XXIV.

There high on Sipylus's shaggy brow,  
She stands her own sad monument of wo ;  
The rock for ever lasts, the tears for ever flow.

Such griefs, O king ! have other parents known ;  
Remember theirs, and mitigate thy own. 781  
The care of heav'n thy Hector has appear'd,  
Nor shall he lie unwept and uninterr'd ;  
Soon may thy aged cheeks in tears be drown'd,  
And all the eyes of Ilion stream around. 785

He said ; and, rising, chose the victim ewe  
With silver fleece, which his attendants slew.  
The limbs they sever from the reeking hide,  
With skill prepare them, and in parts divide :  
Each on the coals the sep'rate morsels lays, 790  
And hasty snatches from the rising blaze.  
With bread the glitt'ring canisters they load,  
Which round the board Automedon bestow'd :  
The chief himself to each his portion plac'd,  
And each indulging shar'd in sweet repast. 795  
When now the rage of hunger was represt,  
The wond'ring hero eyes his royal guest :  
No less the royal guest the hero eyes,  
His godlike aspect and majestic size :  
Here youthful grace and noble fire engage, 800  
And there the mild benevolence of age.  
Thus gazing long, the silence neither broke,  
(A solemn scene !) at length the father spoke.

Permit me now, belov'd of Jove ! to steep  
My careful temples in the dew of sleep : 805  
For since the day that number'd with the dead  
My hapless son, the dust has been my bed :  
Soft sleep a stranger to my weeping eyes,  
My only food my sorrows and my sighs !  
Till now, encourag'd by the grace you give, 810  
I share thy banquet, and consent to live.

With that, Achilles bade prepare the bed,  
 With purple soft, and shaggy carpets spread ;  
 Forth, by the flaming lights, they bend their way,  
 And place the couches, and the cov'nings lay. 815  
 Then he : Now, father, sleep ; but sleep not here :  
 Consult thy safety, and forgive my fear,  
 Lest any Argive (at this hour awake,  
 To ask our counsel, or our orders take)  
 Approaching sudden to our open'd tent, 820  
 Perchance behold thee, and our grace prevent.  
 Should such report thy honour'd person here,  
 The king of men the ransom might defer :  
 But say with speed, if aught of thy desire  
 Remains unask'd ; what time the rites require 825  
 T' inter thy Hector ? for so long we stay  
 Our slaught'ring arm, and bid the hosts obey.

If then thy will permit (the monarch said)  
 To finish all due honours to the dead,  
 This of thy grace accord : to thee are known 830  
 The fears of Ilion, clos'd within her town ;  
 And at what distance from our walls aspire  
 The hills of Ide, and forests for the fire.  
 Nine days to vent our sorrows I request,  
 The tenth shall see the fun'r'al and the feast : 835  
 The next to raise his monument be giv'n ;  
 The twelfth we war, if war be doom'd by heav'n !

This thy request (reply'd the chief) enjoy :  
 Till then our arms suspend the fall of Troy.

Then gave his hand at parting, to prevent 840  
 The old man's fears, and turn'd within the tent ;  
 Where fair Briseis, bright in blooming charms,  
 Expects her hero with desiring arms.  
 But in the porch the king and herald rest,  
 Sad dreams of care yet wand'ring in their breast. 845  
 Now Gods and men the gifts of sleep partake ;  
 Industrious Hermes only was awake,

## 286 HOMER'S ILIAD. Book XXIV.

The king's return revolving in his mind,  
To pass the ramparts, and the watch to blind.  
The pow'r descending hover'd o'er his head : 850  
And sleep'st thou, father ! (thus the vision said),  
Now dost thou sleep, when Hector is restor'd ?  
Nor fear the Grecian foes, or Grecian lord ?  
Thy presence here should stern Atrides see,  
Thy still surviving sons may sue for thee, 855  
May offer all thy treasures yet contain,  
To spare thy age ; and offer all in vain.

Wak'd with the word, the trembling fire arose,  
And rais'd his friend ; the God before him goes,  
He joins the mules, directs them with his hand. 860  
And moves in silence through the hostile land.  
When now to Xanthus' yellow stream they drove,  
(Xanthus, immortal progeny of Jove),  
The winged Deity forsook their view,  
And in a moment to Olympus flew. 865  
Now shed Aurora round her saffron ray,  
Sprung through the gates of light, and gave the day :  
Charg'd with their mournful load, to Ilion go  
The sage and king, majestically flow.  
Cassandra first beholds, from Ilion's spire, 870  
The sad procession of her hoary fire ;  
Then, as the pensive pomp advanc'd more near,  
(Her breathless brother stretch'd upon the bier !)  
A shov'r of tears o'erflows her beauteous eyes,  
Alarming thus all Ilion with her cries. 875

Turn here your steps, and here your eyes employ,  
Ye wretched daughters, and ye sons of Troy !  
If e'er ye rush'd in crouds, with vast delight,  
To hail your hero glorious from the fight ;  
Now meet him dead, and let your sorrows flow ! 880  
Your common triumph, and your common wo.

In thronging crouds they issue to the plains,  
Nor man, nor woman in the walls remains ;

Book XXIV. HOMER's ILIAD. 287

In ev'ry face the self-same grief is shown,  
And Troy sends forth one universal groan. 885  
At Scæa's gates they meet the mourning wain,  
Hang on the wheels, and grovel round the slain.  
The wife and mother, frantic with despair,  
Kiss his pale cheek, and rend their scatter'd hair:  
Thus wildly wailing, at the gates they lay; 890  
And there had sigh'd and sorrow'd out the day;  
But godlike Priam from the chariot rose;  
Forbear (he cry'd) this violence of woes,  
First to the palace let the car proceed,  
Then pour your boundless sorrows o'er the dead. 895

The waves of people at his word divide,  
Slow rolls the chariot through the following tide;  
Ev'n to the palace the sad pomp they wait:  
They weep, and place him on the bed of state.  
A melancholy choir attend around, 900  
With plaintive sighs, and music's solemn sound:  
Alternately they sing, alternate flow  
Th' obedient tears, melodious in their wo,  
While deeper sorrows groan from each full heart,  
And nature speaks at ev'ry pause of art. 905

First to the corse the weeping consort flew;  
Around his neck her milk white arms she threw,  
And oh my Hector! oh my lord she cries,  
Snatch'd in thy bloom from these desiring eyes!  
Thou to the dismal realms for ever gone! 910  
And I abandon'd, desolate, alone!  
An only son, once comfort of our pains,  
Sad product now of hapless love remains!  
Never to manly age that son shall rise,  
Or with increasing graces glad my eyes; 915  
For Ilion now (her great defender slain)  
Shall sink a smoaking ruin on the plain.  
Who now protects her wives with guardian care?  
Who saves her infants from the rage of war?

Now hostile fleets must waft those infants o'er, 920  
 (Those wives must wait them), to a foreign shore !  
 Thou too, my son ! to barb'rous climes shalt go,  
 The sad companion of thy mother's wo ;  
 Driv'n hence a slave before the victor's sword ;  
 Condemn'd to toil for some inhuman lord : 925  
 Or else some Greek whose father press'd the plain,  
 Or son, or brother, by great Hector slain,  
 In Hector's blood his vengeance shall enjoy,  
 And hurl thee headlong from the tow'rs of Troy.  
 For thy stern father never spar'd a foe : 930  
 Thence all these tears, and all this scene of wo !  
 Thence many evils his sad parents bore,  
 His parents many, but his consort more.  
 Why gav'st thou not to me thy dying hand ?  
 And why receiv'd not I thy last command ? 935  
 Some word thou wouldest have spoke, which sadly dear,  
 My soul might keep, or utter with a tear ;  
 Which never, never could be lost in air,  
 Fix'd in my heart, and oft repeated there !  
 Thus to her weeping maids she makes her moan ;  
 Her weeping handmaids echo groan for groan. 940  
 The mournful mother next sustains her part.  
 Oh thou, the best, the dearest to my heart !  
 Of all my race thou most by heav'n approv'd,  
 And by th'immortals ev'n in death belov'd ! 945  
 While all my other sons in barb'rous bands  
 Achilles bound, and sold to foreign lands,  
 This felt no chains, but went a glorious ghost,  
 Free and a hero, to the Stygian coast.  
 Sentenc'd, 'tis true, by his inhuman doom, 950  
 Thy noble corse was dragg'd around the tomb,  
 (The tomb of him thy warlike arm had slain),  
 Ungen'rous insult, impotent and vain !  
 Yet glow'st thou fresh with ev'ry living grace ;  
 No mark of pain, or violence of face ; 955

Book XXIV. H O M E R's I L I A D. 289

Rosy and fair ! as Phœbus' silver bow  
Dismiss'd thee gently to the shades below.

Thus spoke the dame, and melted into tears.  
Sad Helen next in pomp of grief appears :  
Fast from the shining sluices of her eyes 960  
Fall the round crystal drops, while thus she cries.

Ah dearest friend ! in whom the Gods had join'd  
The mildest manners with the bravest mind :  
Now twice ten years (unhappy years) are o'er,  
Since Paris brought me to the Trojan shore ; 965  
(Oh had I perish'd, ere that form divine  
Seduc'd this soft, this easy heart of mine !  
Yet was it ne'er my fate, from thee to find  
A deed ungentle, or a word unkind :  
When others curs'd the auth'res of their wo, 970  
Thy pity check'd my sorrows in their flow :  
If some proud brother ey'd me with disdain,  
Or scornful sister with her sweeping train ;  
Thy gentle accents soften'd all my pain.  
For thee I mourn ; and mourn myself in thee, 975  
The wretched source of all this misery !

The fate I caus'd, for ever I bemoan ;  
Sad Helen has no friend, now thou art gone !  
Through Troy's wide streets abandon'd I shall roam !  
In Troy deserted as abhor'd at home ! 980

So spake the fair, with sorrow streaming eye :  
Distressful beauty melts each stander by ;  
On all around th' infectious sorrow grows ;  
But Priam check'd the torrent as it rose.

Perform, ye Trojans ! what the rites require, 985  
And fell the forests for a fun'ral pyre :  
Twelve days, nor foes nor secret ambush dread ;  
Achilles grants these honours to the dead.

He spoke ; and at the word the Trojan train  
Their mules and oxen harness to the wain, 990

Pour through the gates, and fell'd from Ida's crown,  
 Roll back the gather'd forests to the town.  
 These toils continue nine succeeding days,  
 And high in air a sylvan structure raise.  
 But when the tenth fair morn began to shine, 995  
 Forth to the pile was born the man divine,  
 And plac'd aloft: while all, with streaming eyes,  
 Beheld the flames and rolling smokes arise.  
 Soon as Aurora, daughter of the dawn,  
 With rosy lustre streak'd the dewy lawn; 1000  
 Again the mournful crouds surround the pyre,  
 And quench with wine the yet-remaining fire:  
 The snowy bones his friends and brothers place  
 (With tears collected) in a golden vase;  
 The golden vase in purple palls they roll'd, 1005  
 Of softest texture, and inwrought with gold.  
 Lalt o'er the urn the sacred earth they spread,  
 And rais'd the tomb, memorial of the dead.  
 (Strong guards and spies, till all the rites were done,  
 Watch'd from the rising to the setting sun). 1010  
 All Troy then moves to Priam's court again,  
 A solemn, silent, melancholy train:  
 Assembled there, from pious toil they rest,  
 And sadly shar'd the last sepulchral feast,  
 Such honours Ilion to her hero paid, 1015  
 And peaceful slept the mighty Hector's shade.

*The End of the ILIAD,*



